



IMPERIAL INSTITUTE  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, PUSA.

THE  
**United Planters' Association**  
OF  
**Southern India**

(INCORPORATED).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

HELD AT

**BANGALORE**

ON

*20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th August, 1917.*

**With an Appendix.**

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**Madras:**

PRINTED AT THE ADDISON PRESS.

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1917.

THE  
**United Planters' Association**  
OF  
**Southern India**  
(INCORPORATED).

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LICENSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

*Dated 22nd April, 1899.*

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**LICENSE.**

Whereas "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" is an Association which is registerable under the Indian Companies' Act, 1882, as a Limited Company, and whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that it is formed for the purposes set forth in the Memorandum of Association, and that it is the intention of the Association to apply the profits and income of the Association to promote those purposes, and that payment of any dividend to its members is prohibited by the Fourth Article of the Memorandum of Association, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct under the provisions of Section 26 of the said Act, that "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" shall be registered with limited liability, but without the addition of the word "limited" to its name.

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THE  
**United Planters' Association**  
 OF  
**Southern India**  
 (INCORPORATED).

**ESTABLISHED 1894—INCORPORATED 1899.**

**District Planters' Associations represented.**

ANAMALAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Anamalais.</i>
BABABUDIN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Mysore.</i>
CENTRAL TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Coorg.</i>
KANAN DEVAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
MUNDAKAYAM PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Nilgiris.</i>
NORTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Mysore.</i>
SHEVAROV PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Shevaroy's.</i>
SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Mysore.</i>
SOUTH TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
WEST COAST PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Cochin, etc.</i>
WYNAAD PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Wynaad.</i>

**Executive, 1917-1918.**

*Chairman.*—J. S. NICOLLS, *Daverashola Estate, Devarshola P.O., Nilgiris.*

*Vice-Chairmen.*—{ C. E. ABBOTT, *Meppadi, Wynaad.*  
 P. G. TIPPING, *Fairlands, Sidapur, Coorg*

*Council.*—The Chairman, *ex-officio*, the Vice-Chairmen, *ex-officio* the Association's Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George; the ex-Chairman (Chairman during the previous year); and the Honorary Secretaries of the respective District Planters' Associations (or such other Representatives as these Associations may from time to time appoint).

*Secretary.*—FLETCHER NORTON, *Bangalore.*

**Representatives on the London Chamber of Commerce.**

1913-1917... GUY OWEN.  
 1912-1913... JNO. C. SANDERSON and GUY OWEN.  
 1902-1912... JNO. C. SANDERSON.  
 1901-1902... JNO. C. SANDERSON and BROOKE MOCKETT.  
 1897-1901 JNO. C. SANDERSON.  
 1896-1897... JNO. C. SANDERSON and FRANK MANGLES.  
 1895-1896... JNO. C. SANDERSON,



## Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

The Hon' ble Mr. E. F. BARBER, *Ootacamund.*

## Former Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Representatives on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

### *Chairmen.*

1894-1895...	Mr. DIGBY T. BRETT.
1895-1896...	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
1896-1897...	Mr. G. L. ACWORTH.
1897-1898...	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
1898-1899...	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
1899-1900...	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
1900-1901...	Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
1901-1902...	Mr. ROBERT GOMPERTZ.
1902-1903...	Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
1903-1904...	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
1904-1905...	{ Mr. H. M. KNIGHT. Mr. G. K. MARTIN.
1905-1906...	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
1906-1907...	{ Mr. J. A. HARRIS. Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.
1907-1908...	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1908-1909...	Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1909-1910...	Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.
1910-1911...	{ Mr. R. D. TIPPING. Mr. C. H. BROCK. Hon'ble Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1911-1912...	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1912-1913...	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1913-1914...	Mr. E. L. MAHON.
1914-1915...	Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.
1915-1916...	Mr. C. H. BROWNE
1916-1917...	Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.

### *Vice-Chairmen.*

Mr. G. R. EVANS.
Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
Mr. H. G. PARSONS.
Mr. J. C. ABBOTT.
Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
Mr. A. LAMBERT.
Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
Mr. E. G. WINDLE.
Mr. O. SCOTT-SKIRVING.
Mr. G. K. MARTIN.
Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.
Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.
Mr. BERNARD MALCOLM.
Mr. C. H. BROCK.
{ Mr. E. F. BARBER, Mr. A. F. MARTIN.
{ Mr. E. L. MAHON. Mr. E. A. HUGHES.
{ Mr. E. A. HUGHES. Mr. W. L. CRAWFORD.
{ Mr. J. A. GRAHAM. Mr. C. H. BROCK.
{ Mr. H. WADDINGTON. Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.
{ Mr. P. G. TIPPING. Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.

### Planting Members.

1893-1896	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. G. ROMILLY.
1896-1900	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
1900-1904	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. G. L. ACWORTH.
1904-1908	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
1908-1909	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1909-1912	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1912	...	...	Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER.

OFFICES : PARRY'S BUILDINGS, NORTH BEACH, MADRAS

and

25, SOUTH PARADE, BANGALORE.

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# The United Planters' Association

OF

## Southern India

(INCORPORATED).

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### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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*First day, Monday, August 20th, 1917.*

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#### GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated), was held at the Mayo Hall, Bangalore, from Monday, 20th August to Friday, the 24th idem. Proceedings commenced at 10-30 A.M., on Monday, with a General Committee Meeting of all the Delegates when the names of the Delegates attending the Meeting were recorded as also the acreages represented by each affiliated Association.

The CHAIRMAN explained briefly that the Meeting was being conducted on the same lines as the previous year, namely, that all preliminary discussion was to take place in Committees and that on the final day a debate would take place on the Resolutions and Amendments which had been discussed in Committee. A special session had been reserved for the reading and discussion of scientific papers.

The rest of the forenoon was spent in settling the *personnel* of the various Committees. Tentative lists had been drawn up in which attempts had been made to secure the representation of the different interests of the United Planters' Association; but certain changes were found necessary to suit the convenience of the Delegates and these were made. With the permission of the Meeting of Delegates it was decided to add Act XIII of 1859 and the Indian Defence Force to the subjects on the Agenda as sufficient notice according to the rules had not been given.

The accounts were then gone into and passed after one or two items had been explained.

### THE OPEN GENERAL MEETING.

All the Delegates and Visitors including the Hon'ble Mr. H. V. Cobb, the British Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg, and Sir M. Visveswaraya, K.C.I.E., Dewan of Mysore, met at 2-30 P.M., when the Meeting was formally opened. Those present were the following :—

<i>Chairman</i> ...	...	Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.
<i>Planting Member of Council</i> ...	...	The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER.
<i>Vice-Chairmen</i> ...	...	{ Mr. P. G. TIPPING. Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.

### DELEGATES.

<i>Anamalai Planters' Association</i> ...	Messrs. C. FRASER AND C. R. T. CONGREVE.
<i>Bababudin Planters' Association</i> ...	Messrs. S. H. DENNIS & H. KERR.
<i>Central Travancore Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. J. A. RICHARDSON AND D. McARTHUR.
<i>Coorg Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. E. L. MAHON AND P. G. TIPPING.
<i>Kanan Devan Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. H. L. PINCHES, A. J. WRIGHT AND W. A. LEE.
<i>Mundakayam Planters' Association</i>	Mr. J. J. MURPHY.
<i>Nilgiri Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. A. S. DANDISON AND J. B. LESLIE ROGERS.
<i>North Mysore Planters' Association</i> ...	... Mr. C. H. GODFREY.
<i>Shevaroy Planters' Association</i> ...	... Mr. V. TRAVERS-DRAPES.
<i>South Mysore Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. C. LAKE, C. J. HAYWARD AND F. M. HAMILTON.
<i>South Travancore Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. J. B. COOK AND C. HALL.
<i>Wynaad Planters' Association</i> ...	... Messrs. C. E. ABBOTT, B. MALCOLM AND R. AINSWORTH.
<i>West Coast Planters' Association</i> ...	Messrs. R. LESCHER AND A. C. MORRELL.
<i>Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts</i> ...	... Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD, M.A.
<i>Director, Labour Department</i> ...	... Mr. A. FF. MARTIN.
<i>Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India</i> ...	... Mr. F. NORTON.

**Visitors.**

Dr. HOPE, Scientific Officer,  
Indian Tea Association.  
Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S.,  
Director of Agriculture,  
Madras.  
Mr. R. K. WALKER.  
Mr. W. MCRAE, Government  
Mycologist.  
Mr. P. J. ANDERSON.  
Dr. LESLIE COLEMAN, Director  
of Agriculture, Mysore Gov-  
ernment.  
Mr. G. R. HILSON, Deputy Di-  
rector of Agriculture, Circles  
I, II and III.  
Mr. J. MACIVER.  
The Rev. D. H. GILLAN.  
Mr. F. HANNYNGTON, I.C.S.  
Mr. P. R. WETHERALL.  
Major E. H. S. JAMES, I. A.,  
Assistant Resident.  
Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.  
Mr. W. C. ROSE, Agent, Bank  
of Mysore.  
Mr. C. F. K. TACCHELLA.  
Mr. G. N. FRATTINI.  
Mr. T. HOWELL (Messrs.  
Stanes & Co., Ltd.)  
Mr. L. P. KENT.

Mr. L. H. BOWDEN, Ceylon  
Labour Commission.  
Mr. H. C. STAPLES (Chilean  
Nitrate Propaganda Sub-  
Delegation).  
Dr. H. E. WATSON.  
Mr. J. V. SALDANHA.  
Mr. R. FOWKE.  
Mr. J. S. SCOTT.  
Mr. J. C. HOWISON (Messrs.  
Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd.)  
Mrs. WETHERALL.  
" FOWKE.  
" SCOTT.  
" WATSON.  
" PINCHES.  
" F. M. HAMILTON.  
" ABBOTT.  
" R. K. WALKER.  
" ANSTEAD.  
" LEE.  
Miss BAYLISS.  
Mrs. WRIGHT.  
" FRASER.  
" CONGREVE.  
" MALCOLM.  
" MARTIN.  
" TIPPING.  
Miss MAHON.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT.**

Mr. FLETCHER NORTON (*Secretary*) read the following Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN,—We have just passed the Anniversary of the third year of this awful War, though with prospects of a definite victory, brighter and more hopeful than hitherto.

I have to report that since last year 24 more planters have joined His Majesty's Forces, making in all 226 who have done so from our small community. A book containing their names is before each member. Those who have been killed since last year are:—R. D. Lovett, enlisted 16th Battalion (Public Schools) Middlesex Regiment, killed in France, 1st July, 1916, R. F. Hiley, Lieutenant-Surgeon, Mesopotamia, returned to India, died; G. D. Pechell, Lieutenant, Flying Corps, killed; G. W. Church, M. C., The Buffs, France, missing believed killed; F. G. Lechler, 2nd Lieutenant, I. A. R. O., Mesopotamia, died at Base Hospital at Basra, of para typhoid fever; P. A. Thompson, 2nd Lieutenant, I. A. R. O., killed in Gallipoli; J. H. S. Jameson, Lieutenant, 7th Seaforth Highlanders, killed in action. I also regret to report the deaths of Messrs. E. A. Hughes, J. A. Harris and C. Hendry; all of whom have lent their talents to your deliberations.

Notwithstanding the War, the past year has been one of increased activity though one of anxiety and trial to all the industries which are affiliated to and represented by this Association. The two chief causes have been acute financial difficulties and want of tonnage. To meet the former, a Meeting was held in Madras at the end of May, which was largely representative and well attended by Planters, Coast Firms, Bankers and Members of Mercantile Firms. At this Meeting Resolutions were passed and placed before the Government of Madras asking for financial aid on a minimum basis of the aid required by planters to carry on their estates. These Resolutions were passed on to the Government of India, and the Madras Government have been in correspondence with the Bank of Madras with a view to ascertain the extent to which the Banks can render assistance. The Secretary to the Government of Madras informed me that "no further action on the part of Government is possible, pending the receipt of definite information as to the amount of financial aid which the planters are likely to require and as to the extent to which their Banks will be able to help them." Forms have been issued to be filled in with detailed statements which will be placed before Government, and on that information it will decide the question of financial assistance. On yourselves solely depends the measure of help that you will receive.

During the past year, His Excellency the Governor of Madras has twice made tours and seen for himself the enormous importance of the community to the State. He has set a precedent which I trust will be followed by his successors. He has expressed great interest and sympathy with us, and it behoves you not to allow that interest to lapse. You can best do so by meeting the Government by furnishing them with all necessary information they ask you for, whereby they can come to your financial assistance.

Tonnage has been scarce and freight enormously increased. I can see no immediate remedy for this. The Controller of Shipping is the master of the situation, and only by convincing him of your necessities can you expect to have sufficient tonnage placed at your disposal.

Every Planting Industry has received the keen personal attention of the Chairman and Council. The year has been an immensely busy one as regards planting politics. Besides the Financial Meeting held in May, three Committee Meetings of the local branch of the Rubber Growers' Association were held. At the Meeting at Cochin several hundred acres of rubber were placed at the disposal of Messrs. Anstead and McRae for continued experiment on abnormal leaf fall, and, at Calicut, Mr. Marsden, Scientific Research Officer, Ceylon, gave a most interesting lecture, mostly on the manufacture of rubber. The latest list of the local branch of the Rubber Growers' Association shows 44,471 acres which do not include native holdings, which amount to some 8,000 acres.

Two Scientific Committee Meetings were held, one in Bangalore and one in Calicut. There was also held at Calicut a "Tea Export" Meeting at which important Resolutions were passed dealing with tea estimates and allotments which have been forwarded to the Collector of Customs, Madras.

A Meeting was held in Madras to protest against the prohibition of the import of coffee into the United Kingdom. As is now known the

Government of India sanctioned the export of 6,200 tons as from the 23rd February, but it was only on the 28th June that the Home Government sanctioned the import of that amount. Mr. Brooke Mockett our Representative on the British Empire Producers' Organization, wrote to me on the 20th June when the news arrived in England that the Government of India had sanctioned the export of 6,150 tons, it was news to all of them in England "for every lot of Indian coffee is put under an embargo by the Government directly it arrives and the consignee has to enter into a bond to about double the value of the coffee before it is allowed to be landed, and even after doing that he cannot sell or deal with it in any way." "Sanction by the Board of Trade was only given on the 28th June, notwithstanding that, 140,000 bags of Brazil coffee were shipped from Brazil, after the date of the Proclamation and were admitted into London without hindrance. On the other hand the Board of Trade put an embargo on all East India coffee shipped after the date of the Proclamation, directly it arrives."

The Association has during the year affiliated itself with the British Empire Producers' Organization with Mr. Brooke Mockett as our Representative who writes to me "the successful issue of this matter is mainly owing to the private influence brought to bear on our behalf by the British Empire Producers' Organization." The same organization has arranged prompt action on the question of restriction of tea allotments and stoppage of export of tea. The thanks of this Association are due to Mr. Brooke Mockett, Sir John Rees and the above Organization.

As regards the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, at the Annual Meeting of 1915, a somewhat hasty Resolution was passed implying that this Association supported the construction of the Shimoga-Bhatkul Line by the Mysore Government. The Mysore Durbar has seized on this Resolution as having received the support of the U. P. A., though I wrote "It was never the intention of this Association to support the extension of the railway and the selection of Bhatkul as a port for Mysore, except as a connecting link in the system of railways in the Planting Districts. To this Association there appeared grave objection to such selection. The Mysore planters would derive no benefit from such construction. Mr. Danvers' Resolution, therefore, cannot be used by the Durbar as one strengthening or supporting the Bhatkul scheme of itself. Only can it be authoritatively used when applied to the system of railways in the Planting Districts. On the contrary, this Association has consistently, for innumerable years (when railways in Mysore have been discussed) strongly supported the construction of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway." In the face of Mr. Richards' Report I believe the Shimoga-Bhatkul Line still finds favour with the Mysore Durbar.

Both the Cochin Harbour and the Anamalai Ghaut Road will come up for discussion.

I am sure that this Association will be pleased at the appointment of Mr. Chadwick, I.C.S., as Indian Trade Commissioner. You all know what interest he took in the Planting Community and that it is largely due to his advocacy that when circumstances permit, the Government will take over your Scientific Department and start on the Experimental Station. We may be sure that he will not lose his interest in



Southern Indian Agriculture, and lose no opportunity to press the somewhat unfair way Southern India has been treated—if not ignored.

The appointment of a Mycologist has been a great difficulty, though efforts have been made to secure a responsible man of experience. There is a Resolution on the subject. This cruel War which, I believe, will eventually turn to the advantage and happiness of mankind, has dislocated commerce, agriculture and finance.

The darkhast rules were subject of discussion last year and certain modifications were suggested by Government. The matter has come up again for discussion this year.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Mr. S. B. Murray, was confident that his visit to the Ghaut Road on the Anamalais would result in the better maintenance of it; the matter has been brought up again by the Anamalai Association.

The Cochin Harbour will again claim your attention. In 1915 in reply to your Resolution, Government said they were endeavouring to secure a suitable dredger.

The acreage subscribing to the Labour Department amounts to 103,408.79 of which the cardamom acreage is 2,729. This is an increase of 174,229 acres. The total subscription is Rs. 2,04,088-7-8.

Subscriptions and interest to the South India Planters' War Fund amount to Rs. 63,782-10-2, out of which, so far, Rs. 1,415 represent temporary loans.

The South India Planters' Benevolent Fund has Rs. 18,500 invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper and Rs. 4,926-12-8 on fixed deposit with the Bank of Madras. Depreciation written off Government Paper to bring the value to 66 amounts to Rs. 2,220. Assistance during the year has been Rs. 1,035.

The *Planters' Chronicle* shows a profit of Rs. 801-2-5 against an estimate of Rs. 900. To increase in the price of paper and falling off of advertisements is due the difference.

The accounts for the year are laid on the table. A comparison of actuals with estimates shows the following results:—

		Estimate.	Actual.
		Rs.	Rs.
Income ...	...	27,484	26,940
Expenditure ...	...	21,945	23,084

### THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The Chairman (Mr. J. S. NICOLLS) delivered the following address:

GENTLEMEN,—You have heard your Secretary's Report and he has gone very fully into the work of last year and left me little to say.

I can only wish that the honoured position I have held as your Chairman, one which I had always hoped to attain to, had fallen in less turbulent times. I have done my best to help to solve the many important matters that have come before me during the past year,

and I have not been frightened at, or intentionally shirked, any of the grave responsibilities my position has carried with it. I feel that there must be some way of lessening the amount of work that the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. has to do. I have heard it said in this room that if one wants anything done, the way to get it done is to go to a busy man. If I have done part of that which was given unto me to do fairly well, I shall leave this room with greater confidence in my own abilities than I do at the present moment. When you give your judgment on my work let the sentence be a light one. You may one day be in the same position. Both my predecessors in office must have prayed as I now pray, that it may not fall on my successor to record that "since we last met together in this hall another year of this dreadful War has passed." The War continues on and we seem no nearer to the end. Mr. Browne ending his remarkable speech of last year said:—

"We are living in terrible times. Possibly the worst is before us. We are a determined and united nation and whatever sacrifices have to be made will be made willingly and we are cheered by the knowledge that victory is certain."

Have any of those essentials for victory he then credited us with having departed from us? I for one will not believe they have, but that we will carry them to that only ending of this War he then predicted. Our Secretary in his report has read out the names of those of our community who have gone to fight, not only the avowed enemies of our Empire, but alongside our brave Allies to blot out from this world's sheet that wicked spirit of avarice and greed that led to this dreadful spilling of human blood. Some of those that have gone from our community will never return. Their names will for ever remain honoured with us of to-day and with those that come after, and I hope that I may one day be present at the unveiling of a monument recording the names of those planters who have given up their lives, as our beloved King in his message to the Lord Mayor of London said, "to secure the sacred principles of justice, freedom and humanity." Most of us here to-day have lost relatives and friends of our youth. Everyday brings to us some consequence of the War. I wish I could conscientiously say the worst is past, but with confidence I say, discussions at this Meeting will show the world that the Planters of Southern India are determined to face difficulties and overcome them and that we fully recognise the Empire's full resources must be used in bringing the War to an early termination. None of us could have expected to come through this War unscathed; up to a few months ago our injuries were slight, but since then the position has become much worse. Mr. Browne last year reminded you of Mr. Richardson's warning in his Address from the Chair at our Annual Meeting of 1915. Market conditions, freight, tonnage are matters so closely bound up with finance, that it is a difficult task to consider one apart from the other. Reduced estate expenditure or reduced output of crop might tend to relieve either position. Ceylon has agreed to a reduction by 25 per cent. of its tea output for the next twelve months, and before doing this it must have considered well the benefits to accrue to itself by doing so. I feel it is my duty to warn every one that the difficulties we have had to face in financing our industries lately, will not get easier in the near future; and it is essential to look at this from the worst aspect, and not to speculate on an improved future. We are living in abnormal times and matters must be considered in that light.

## Products.

*Coffee and Relative Matters.*—Crop during the past year was, I believe, a good one, and in normal times would have gone some way to recompense the planter for the unfavourable position he was placed in by the poor crop of the previous season. The coming crop over the greater part of the coffee producing area will, I believe, be a poor one. I think it would be inadvisable to talk to Coffee Planters about the price obtained for Home sales. I would rather face rotten eggs at an election. What can only be considered in the one light as “unnecessary obstruction” prevented shipment of coffee from the West Coast when facilities for shipment were available; partial withdrawal of such obstructions at the eleventh hour did not help to improve matters (or should it exonerate anybody who is responsible for the muddle from a severe judgment). The whole matter was clearly put before the Powers—that be, not only by the U. P. A. S. I., but by the Empire Producers’ Organization, Agents and others and to all of them is due a hearty vote of thanks. I would especially refer to Mr. Mockett and Sir John Rees, who have acted for us on the Empire Producers’ Organization. Ample time was given to allow of careful consideration of the whole matter by the Imperial Government, and what would happen to the Coffee Industry if prohibition of import into the United Kingdom was not removed before the West Coast ports were closed to shipping has actually happened, resulting in severe financial difficulties and possibly to considerable deterioration in value of the coffee now stored in this country.

*Tea and Relative Matters.*—The season was not as favourable as the last for flushing, owing to adverse climatic causes during our usual heaviest flushing months. Prices at times rose to an abnormal high level. From the 1st April, 1917, 40 per cent. of each invoice had to be delivered to the distributing Committee formed by the Imperial Government, at 1s. per lb. Tea at 1s. per lb. leaves the producer, with freight at its present high figure, nothing but a bare profit. From the 1st July a new scheme was framed by Government on a fixed scale of prices. 90 per cent. of each invoice is to be delivered to the distributing Committee. It looks a formidable arrangement, occupying about two columns of a newspaper. Briefly the basis of prices is as follows:—

10 per cent. to be sold in open market.

25     ”             ”     at 1s. 5d.—1s. 6d.

35     ”             ”     at 1s. 2d.—1s. 3d.

30     ”             ”     at 11d.—1s.

Sellers not being permitted to hold for more than the maximum price for each class, and if the minimum is the best offer, they must sell. If the best bid is below the minimum the seller may refuse or accept.

*Limitation in amount permissible for shipment to the United Kingdom.*—That is a matter which has hit the Tea Planter badly. If tonnage is needed for more urgent needs of the Empire, the planter is not going to grumble. A special Meeting was held in Calicut on the 26th June, at which, the Acting Collector of Customs, Madras, was present, and a satisfactory arrangement was come to on what basis tea shipping allotment should be framed. Further correspondence on

this matter has confirmed the agreement come to and I feel more than satisfied that the Planters of South India are united on this matter. Our restricted export to the United Kingdom may be a blessing in disguise; we have been forced by circumstances to find other markets or to further develop other existing markets. This can only be for the eventual good of the tea industry. We welcomed the action of the Australian Commonwealth Government in excluding for the present all foreign grown teas from importation. On your Agenda appear matters concerning your relations with your brother planters in Ceylon, *viz.*, import of Ceylon tea into India, and the restriction of sale of South Indian tea on the Colombo market. They are matters which want careful handling, but it seems only reasonable that if you have to pay an import duty on sales of Indian tea on the Colombo market, Ceylon should pay the same tax on sales of their tea in Indian markets.

*Rubber.*—Prices have not risen in the same way as those of tea: on the whole they have been good, but of late there has been a very rapid fall in value. This may be due to increased Home stocks, and if so, there may be a recovery later in the year. Indian Rubber Companies, which have got past their babyhood have paid satisfactory dividends showing that the Rubber investor has little to fear in the future.

*Cinchona.*—I do not think this should be considered as gone from Planting enterprise for ever. There is still a good deal of interest taken in its production. On the 20th and 21st December, 1916, at Madras a deputation from the U. P. A. S. I. was received by the Madras Government to try to arrive at some suitable arrangement about furthering the development of Cinchona plantation by private enterprise, so making it unnecessary for Government to plant up large areas to insure a sufficient and continuous supply of quinine. We owe to His Excellency Lord Pentland, who presided at the Meeting both days, our gratitude for the sympathetic hearing he gave to our representations.

*Cardamoms.*—The crop last year was a fair one, but the demand at Home has been poor.

*Pepper.*—The crop was a good one and prices have been very good.

You have a long and important Agenda before you, so I do not want to take up more of your time than necessary and will only touch upon one or two of the more important subjects that are coming up before you during this morning.

*Scientific Department.*—At the Meeting last year the Director of Agriculture informed us that the scheme for the re-organization of the Scientific Department had been definitely accepted by the Government of Madras, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State, and the whole subject was then pending with the Government of India, and he was still awaiting orders. Very little hope was held out that anything would be done till after the War. Thus in October, 1916 an order of Government was received in which it was stated that the Government of India have expressed their inability, pending the sanction from the Secretary of State, to authorise any preliminary expenditure in connection with the scheme for the development of a Scientific Department for the assistance of the Planting Industries of Southern India.

In consequence of this, the preliminary work was dropped. Sites for the first four experiment stations had been agreed upon as far as the districts in which they were to be situated were concerned, and at this the matter was left. In June of this year the Government suddenly announced that a sum of Rs. 17,500 had been provided in this year's Budget for the buildings on the stations, and estimates were called for immediately and urgently. These estimates could not be got out at once, as planters were fully occupied over other matters and the monsoon had set in. However, the whole matter was set going again, and Mr. Anstead has visited the proposed sites and settled details as far as possible, and estimates are being prepared, and it is hoped to make a start with buildings after the monsoon. It is a pity that after shelving the matter the Government should re-open it so suddenly. Had we been given any hope of the matter going through this year, all these details would have been got ready. Things are being pushed on as fast as possible, but it takes time to re-open all the negotiations which had been closed for the time being. It is possible, however, that before March next the sites for the experiment station may be definitely surveyed, the leases signed, and the buildings begun.

With regard to the Mycologist for Planting Districts it is suggested that his headquarters might be in Peermade, but Mr. Anstead proposed that we should wait until he is appointed and that his advice should be taken as to the most suitable place for his headquarters, and that he should get out plans for the necessary laboratory, etc. Meanwhile, when he is appointed, his time may be most profitably occupied for a year or more in making an extended tour of the Planting Districts, and in examination of the fungoid diseases present, and what is already being done to deal with them. During this time he might with advantage have his headquarters at Coimbatore in touch with the laboratories and library there.

On the 5th July, 1917, a Circular No. 37-17 was issued by the U. P. A. S. I. giving information received by your Planting Member from the Government on this matter. It commences in stating that great difficulty is experienced in getting a man, and that the only suitable officer Government could accept is engaged in important investigation under the control of the Government of India. A suggestion is then made to shelve the scheme until the end of the War, but before coming to a decision Government desire to have the views of the U. P. A. S. I. Ceylon seems to be able to get all she wants, as an additional Mycologist arrived there quite lately. I think Government should be asked to give us information as to what steps were taken in trying to procure the services of a Mycologist. It looks as if Government had only approached two men.

*The Analytical Branch.*—The fees obtained for analysis of soil and fertilisers were insufficient to cover the expenditure of this branch of the Department by Rs. 633-15-5 an improvement on last year which was Rs. 953-15-8. Increased cost of chemicals must mean increased cost of work. The Analytical Branch is supplying a "want." I do not think the difference between expenditure and fees obtained should be looked at in the light of a "loss."

*Rubber Growers' Association.*—During the past year three Committee meetings of the local branch of this Association were held, and at the Calicut Meeting we were at last able to welcome Mr. Marsden, Scientific Research Officer of Ceylon, who gave a most interesting lecture on rubber manufacture.

The Association continues its good work. It is powerfully constituted and welcomes and aids every plantation in the East. I hold it necessary, if not the bounden duty, of every rubber property in Southern India to join it. Research work, as we all know, is vital to our industries, and from the Rubber Growers' Association emanates a fund of valuable information to the Rubber Planter. It is not right that one property should stand out thereby benefiting, probably unconsciously or indirectly, from the efforts of a near subscriber.

*Empire Producers' Organization.*—This organization to which we have affiliated ourselves during this year, is very influentially represented on its Council from all parts of the Empire. The Prime Minister of Australia is the President. I cannot do better than quote the objects for which it was formed:—

(a) To promote and foster production, manufacture and trade throughout the British Empire with a view to rendering it self-supporting.

(b) To represent the views of the organisation to the respective Parliaments, Governments and other public bodies of the various parts of the British Empire.

(c) To insure that each industry shall formulate its own fiscal policy subject to the following condition—that wherever the introduction of import or export duties is demanded by any particular industry, such duties shall embrace the principles laid down in the Resolutions passed at the Paris Conference, and shall secure Empire preference, differentiating further between allied, neutral and enemy countries.

(d) To collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to production, manufacture, trade and commerce.

(e) To take steps for improvement of the technical knowledge of persons engaged in the producing and manufacturing industries.

(f) To do all such other things as are in the opinion of the organization necessary, proper, or advisable for the advancement generally of the interest of the organization, or which are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above subjects.

To its influence and that of the Madras Government exerted in our interests is largely due the removal of the embargo on East India coffee lying in bond and the sanction of the Board of Trade to the export of the East India coffee to the United Kingdom. The organization is now exerting itself in favour of the removal of the restriction on tea export to the United Kingdom with, I cannot but hope, the same beneficent results as that attained for coffee. I consider this organization worthy of your support, and to your further consideration a subscription commensurate with our standing as an Association. The following is from the General Secretary's letter of the 23rd March, 1917, to the Secretary of the United Planters' Association of Southern India:—

“ You will note that I enclose among other literature a copy of our Constitution and Rules, from which you will see that members of the Council, pay an annual subscription of 10 guineas but that there is no fixed subscription for an Association. This is decided by agreement on some suitable basis. I may mention that the various Sugar Associations throughout the Empire have

joined us on a basis of a penny per ton on their output. In the case of the indigo section a somewhat different basis was arranged. They pay so much per maund on their output and give a donation. As your Association, I understand, represents rubber, coffee, tea and other industries you may perhaps wish to suggest some other basis, I should be glad to have your views in regard to this."

*South India Planters' Benevolent Fund.*—The subscriptions received, viz., Rs. 1,955, compare poorly with that of Rs. 3,000 received during the previous year. I have little doubt that the Mover of the Resolution Amending Rule IX (c) at our Annual Meeting of last year expected an increased subscription. Gentlemen, I am not begging, and it is hard to give when one has not the wherewithal to give with. But I do hope planters will not forget the existence of this Fund and that Honorary Secretaries of affiliated Associations will do their best to influence subscriptions to it. The subscriptions this year only exceeded the assistance granted by Rs. 919-7. It is fortunate we had not more calls on our benevolence. Owing to depreciation written off Government paper, our credit balance is less than it would otherwise have been.

*South India Planters' War Fund.*—This Fund has passed through its second year. During its first year, subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 41,965-0-9, and this year it has only reached Rs. 19,383-14-3, less than half. I am glad to see the promoter of this Fund here to-day; the credit of birth is his, and the nurturing of it he left with his brother planters. We should not be found wanting.

*Financing Planting Industries.*—A Meeting fully representative of Planting interests was held at the Connemara Hotel in Madras on the 30th and 31st May, 1917, to consider the present financial difficulties of planters and to place them before the Government with a view to secure their help in the present situation.

As a means of obtaining relief, the following suggestions were put before Government:—

- (1) The Council Bill allotment might be raised above Rs. 120 lakhs per week, or
- (2) A certain amount of Council Bills might be ear-marked for estate requirements, or
- (3) The Government might make advance to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills.
- (4) One and two rupee currency notes might be issued at once.

As there seemed to be a considerable variance in opinions as to the amount of financial assistance required, a Committee was formed with the following powers:—

"To go carefully into the necessary estate requirements and be empowered to interview the Banks as to how far they can meet the situation and any other subject in this connection."

The Resolutions and Committee's Report, after being signed by members of the Committee and subjected to the approval of the U. P. A. S. I. were duly forwarded to Government; in the meanwhile, copies of both had been sent to the Government officials present at the Meeting.

The following reply has been received from the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department :—

"With reference to your letters, dated the 27th June, 1917, and 26th July, 1917, on the subject of the financial difficulties of the planters. I am directed to inform you that the Resolution passed at the Meeting held in Madras on the 30th May, 1917, has been communicated to the Government of India, and that the Government have been in correspondence with the Bank of Madras with a view to ascertain the extent to which the Banks can render assistance. No further action on the part of Government is possible pending the receipt of definite information as to the amount of financial aid which the planters are likely to require, and as to the extent to which their Banks will be able to help them. It is understood that a systematic enquiry on these subjects is being organized among planters. On learning its results, the Government will be prepared to consider whether any steps are necessary and feasible to assist the Planting Community to tide over the present crisis."

The Government of Madras are evidently unable to fall in with the suggestions put before them by the Madras Meeting and any assistance that can be given will have to be either direct from Government to planters or through the Presidency Bank. With a view of being in a position to give Government necessary statements regarding any individual financial help wanted, a form has been issued by the U. P. A. S. I. which, if correctly filled in, will give Government the information it requires. This matter is on your Agenda and a strong Committee must be formed to sift matters. I feel certain the result will be such a one as will enable Government to give immediate financial aid when required.

*Labour Department.*—The Labour Department has completed its third year. Your Director has fully dealt with matters concerning the working of the Department and the thanks of the subscribers are due to him and his subordinates for the unceasing energy they have maintained in your interests. During the year, 1,742.29 acres have joined the Department, bringing up the total acreage now subscribing to 103,408.79 acres. There was one Committee Meeting held to which District Associations were asked to send delegates. I do not think it was an unqualified success. Each of the delegates came with some small grievance, no constructive evidence was brought forward that would help to increase or further the utility of the Department. The present financial position of the Planting Industries is such that the Department in the interests of its subscribers must husband its resources and only such expenditure as is necessary to maintain its efficiency must be considered.

With the consent of the Control Committee Mr. Martin has accepted a seat on the "Provincial Recruiting Board" organized by Government. It is adding more to Mr. Martin's already great labours. He will be in a position to see that Planting interests do not clash with Government requirements. Are there now going to be any longer non-subscribers to the "Labour Department" amongst the Planting Community?

Gentlemen, the year's accounts have been in your hands a week before the date of this Meeting, and I feel certain you will join me in congratulating your Secretary and the Director of the Labour Department



on having completed their final accounts in such time that permitted your Auditors, Messrs. Fraser and Ross, to finish their audit at an early enough date to allow the Councillors time to thoroughly examine the accounts before coming to this Meeting. The actual expenditure was Rs. 1,138-10-1 over the estimated expenditure as budgetted for but as this included Rs. 500 chargeable to the Labour Department for audit fee the actual excess is Rs. 1,638-10-1.

The actual revenue is Rs. 543-9-4 less than that appearing in the Budget. This is due to Rs. 500 for Labour Department audit fees which being charged direct to that Department account is not recoverable.

The excess in expenditure over estimate is due to the following :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Telegrams ... ..	186	14	9
Committee Meetings ... ..	656	0	9
Manurial experiments not estimated for...	509	6	0
Coffee Import Prohibition ... ..	360	10	0
Total ...	1,712	14	9

all unforeseen expenditure when the Budget was framed, but which provision should be made for in the Budget for 1917-18.

His Excellency Lord Pentland continued his tours of Planting Districts on the 19th October, 1916, visiting the Anamalais, and on the 15th May, 1917, visiting the Wynaad District. A full report of his Meetings with planters in those districts have appeared in the *Madras Mail*. His Excellency was warmly welcomed by the planters of both districts, who fully recognize that only from such visits can His Excellency gain that knowledge of Planting conditions necessary to judge our needs and wants, and I feel certain the Madras Government will aid us in overcoming the temporary difficulties we are now faced with.

I now come to that part of my Address which concerns me alone and it is to thank all those whom I may have worried during the year. My sincere thanks are due to the Hon'ble Mr. Barber for the great help he has been to me during my year of office. He has not spared himself in your interests, and until I had the pleasure of working with him I had no idea, and I fancy few of you here to-day have, what a great part of his time is given up in working for the interests of his brother planters. To the Councillors, those representatives of the several Committee Meetings found necessary to call during the year are due my thanks for their co-operation in helping me to decide the many urgent matters that have come before me this year. To the members of the U. P. A. S. I. staff, Mr. Martin, Mr. Anstead and to your Secretary, Mr. Norton, my thanks are due for their loyal support and the help they have been to me in my work of the past year. The secretarial work of the U. P. A. S. I. has been very heavy, and I fear it will not decrease anyhow till some time after the end of this War. The U. P. A. S. I. is a much more important body than it was two years ago, and an increased revenue will further its utility. Non-subscribers to the U. P. A. S. I., can but acknowledge that its interests are their interests and recognize the great benefits such a body has

been to them this year. I feel confident that it means a great increase in the subscribing acreage to the U. P. A. S. I. You will all join me in congratulating Mr. Norton in the way he has coped with the increased work and so satisfactorily dealt with.

*The Madras Mail*—Words fail me in trying to express my thanks and the thanks of the U. P. A. S. I for the interest it has taken in Planting matters. It worried me a few months ago and I thought—resulting in my subscribing to the *Madras Mail*.

We are glad to welcome at this Meeting the Hon'ble Mr. Cobb, British Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg. In him I feel the Coffee planters in those districts have a true and sympathetic friend, and we are also glad to see the Dewan of Mysore and our other visitors.

We have to regret the death of three well-known planters and our sincere sympathies and condolences we tender to their relatives.

### THE RESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. V. COBB, C.S.I., C.I.E. (British Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg) was then invited to speak and in doing so said:—

When I attended the opening Meeting last year none of us expected the very serious difficulties which, thanks to Germany's constitutional disregard of International Law, the Planting Community would so soon have to face. And I must admit that the outlook is for the moment gloomy and depressing. But, if I know anything of planters, they will shrug their shoulders, saying *à la guerre comme à la guerre*, and will manfully make the best out of a difficult position. And I do not think the clouds are altogether without a silver lining. For you may feel sure that you will always have the active sympathy of the Government with you, and that everything in reason which can be done to help you will be done, subject, of course, to Imperial necessities arising out of the War. This, I have reason to believe, is the attitude of the Madras Government, and it certainly is that of the Coorg Administration. As to Mysore, I entertain equal confidence, but Sir M. Visvesvaraya is here in person and will, I trust, speak authoritatively on the matter. Your difficulties, as I understand, turn mainly on freightage and finance. These two questions are most intimately connected with War problems. Well, as I said before, I do not conceive it possible that the Government will neglect your interests. On the contrary, I believe that it is most anxious to help you. Let us look at the position from the most utilitarian and selfish point of view. The Planting Community represents—forgive the somewhat inelegant metaphor—a large, sleek goose, the eggs of which are of fine gold. Are we—I mean by “we” Government officials—likely to watch callously the gradual contraction of our goose's rotund proportions for want of a timely tonic or special diet? And there are other less practical, but to my mind, even stronger considerations involved. We cannot forget the very splendid part that planters have played in the War. They have given of their best freely and fully. We cannot forget young Robinson, whom we in Coorg claim as our very own, in spite of the pretensions of Madras newspapers. You may spend days wandering about in the planting districts without seeing a man of fighting age or capability. Almost to a man they have answered the call, and their work is being carried on by the older generation and even in some places by the womenfolk

they have left behind them. I say this as I have seen something of it with my own eyes. Single individuals—I could name some were it necessary—who having reached the age when they might well lay down their task and enjoy their ease, have buckled to and are doing the work which in ordinary times would occupy the attention of several men. I think no community in India has behind it a higher record of patriotism. And no Government could, or would, let such a community go under.

And now before I sit down will you permit me to venture to offer you just a word or two of advice. We officials are often styled sundried bureaucrats and all manner of other fancy names. But, believe me, it is not a dictatorial Chief Commissioner—on the contrary, it is a very deferential one—who enters as it were the lion's den to offer advice to as practical and hard-headed a body of men as India can show. First I would say to you, please help us so that we may help you. Speaking personally, I want to work through and in the closest association with the Planters' Associations. If, therefore, we ask you for facts, figures and statistics, please do not look upon our requests with suspicion. Were I one of you, I should resent as strongly as anyone what might appear at first to be questions of an inquisitorial character. But please take it from me that our object is innocent and commendable. All we want to know is to what extent our help is needed and how it can best be allocated. May I, therefore, appeal to you to furnish to your Honorary Secretaries such information as they may ask for. Secondly, I would say that a house divided against itself cannot stand. I earnestly hope that during this week you will be able to arrive at definite recommendations for the consideration of the Government. The more unanimous these recommendations are, the greater the weight they will carry. I realise, perhaps as completely as you do yourselves, the complexity involved. Many and varying interests have to be considered. But I trust that in framing your suggestions you will pay very special attention to the needs of the individual planter who runs his own estate—perhaps only a very small one—on his own lines and with his own capital. It is these men who have made the industry what it now is, and it is these men—untouched as they are by any body of wealthy capitalists behind them—whose position and whose difficulties have my heartiest sympathy.

I would conclude in a lighter vein. If I had not invested all I could scrape together in War loans, English and Indian, I would put my savings now as a practical man into tea or coffee. With an income-tax at 5s. in the pound, the good old days of champagne and liqueur brandy and the like are over, and what can a thirsty man or woman fall back on to drink save tea or coffee. Good days, therefore, are in store for you, once we have finished with the Hun—days when with bulging pockets you will be able to look back with a smile on 1914—18 as years which were in an indirect way operating for your ultimate benefit.

### **THE DEWAN'S SPEECH.**

The DEWAN said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—There are very few points in regard to which the Mysore planters come into touch with His Highness's Government, and with reference to those points, I have no hesitation to say a few words in response to the request of your Chairman.

Taking first the question of the West Coast harbour, referred to by your Secretary, I may mention that a Resolution was passed at this Conference two years ago in favour of the Bhatkal scheme. Last year the Madras Government assured us that they were not opposed to the scheme. Since then the question has been further investigated by experts with the result that an inner harbour at Bhatkal is considered quite feasible and that the scheme involved no great difficulties of engineering or construction. The principal merit of the Bhatkul scheme is that the harbour there could be kept open for shipping all the year round. No such prospect is held out in the case of any other competing port in which Mysore is interested. His Highness's Government have in any case to extend the Shimoga Railway to near the top of the Ghauts and the additional length needed to connect the same with Bhatkal will be very short, *viz.*, 40 or 50 miles. Now that the investigations have shown the undoubted advantage of the scheme, we trust the Planting Community will give their support to the scheme and also favour the Durbar with any suggestions as to facilities needed for their benefit.

There is next the question of roads in the planting areas. The road leading to Coorg and those in the Kadur District in which the planters are specially interested are, I am willing to admit, not the best of their kind. With the advent of motor cars a better class of roads is demanded even in the interior and many of the roads being classed as local roads, have to be maintained from Local Funds. The Funds in the Kadur District are very limited. We are making arrangements to transfer some more Funds for local expenditure and if any bad bits of roads are brought to the notice of Government, every effort will be made to meet the wishes of the planters. The roads in which the planters are interested form after all a small portion of the roads in the Mysore State, but, on account of the unsatisfactory character of a few, the entire system of roads in the State is liable to get a bad name. Perhaps many of you may not be aware that road-making was once my profession for many years, and also I have travelled pretty extensively in the interior. I can assure the public, with some confidence, that the roads in this State do not compare unfavourably with similar systems of roads in any part of India.

The question of a railway to Coorg was discussed at this table two years ago. The surveys within Mysore territory along the left bank of the Cauvery River have been completed and the estimates will be ready in about three months time. The Hon'ble Mr. Cobb is taking a keen interest in the line and, if he obtains sanction for the portion within Coorg, the Durbar will be in a position to come to a decision about their part of the line. You will agree that practical action will not be possible till after the close of the War.

Another urgent question in which this Association is at present interested is the provision of financial credit to planters interested in coffee cultivation, on account of the situation brought on by the War. The Durbar are in correspondence with the Government of India through the Hon'ble Mr. Cobb and certain suggestions which have been received are under consideration. It is deemed important that as far as possible there should be uniformity of procedure in dealing with this question under all the administrations concerned. I may assure this Association that His Highness's Government will cordially co-operate, to the extent demanded by local circumstances, in any decision that may be arrived at by the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER, in reply to the allusion made to him in the Dewan's speech, said that he had never said it behoved them to hunt whatever hare was started. What he did say was that planters were apt to hunt any hare that was started, but he had adjured them to stick to the one on which they had set their hearts.

### **THE PLANTING MEMBER'S ADDRESS.**

The following is the speech of the Planting Member :—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Since you, Sir, and our Secretary have gone so thoroughly over the ground of activities during the past year, I propose to be very brief, but, Gentlemen, before touching on any details in connection with our affairs, I do want to say a few words about the gentleman who has conducted them for us. Mr. Nicolls has been our Chairman throughout a year which I believe has been by far the most troublous since our Association began and certainly the work required for the proper attention to your affairs has been enormous during the last six months. I think I am right in saying that I have been in closer touch with Mr. Nicolls during this time than anyone else here, and so I am entitled to speak of his unflagging energy and his attention to your interests. If any mistakes have been made, and I believe there have been surprisingly few, when one considers the amount of detail that has been dealt with, they are none of them due to lack of energy on the part of your Chairman and I trust that this is fully realised by all and will in due course receive its proper appreciation.

There are a few points to which I should like to call your attention which have been only briefly referred to as yet or of which no mention has been made,

At one of the Meetings of the Nilgiri Planters' Association the question of darkhast rules and the extension and amplification to suit the needs of Planting Districts was raised. During the course of this year a Meeting was held at which the Hon'ble Sir Robert Clegg presided, and as a result certain modifications are being considered which, as far as I am aware, meet the views of those districts which it concerns.

I think it should be a policy of this Association to aim for a uniformity of tenure throughout our Planting Districts as I believe it will be one of the ways that will attract capital to this largely undeveloped country. It is not a simple question, it is full of complexities and any achievement may take years to attain, but that is no reason why it should be lost sight of.

It is not often we talk of labour legislation in these days and I believe it is some years since we have had any serious debate on such a subject. Quite recently, however, Act XIII of 1859 has been brought to notice owing to a proposal of amendment which, if given effect to, will delete the penal clauses, having been brought forward. The general opinion is that such mutilation will render the Act useless to us under existing conditions. I am indebted to one gentleman for expressing the views we hold definitely and clearly, and in his own words they have been forwarded to the Government of Madras. The Indian Tea Association has taken action on the matter and so has the Coorg Planters' Association.

The War has affected any chances there were of immediate construction of railways and the like but these are subjects about which we should not keep silent and I hope that this Meeting will again emphasise our needs for a harbour on the West Coast and railways. I trust that the Dewan will forgive me when I say not any harbour, not any railways, but those which we know we want and which we know will serve us best.

The Chairman has asked me to call attention to the Madras Exhibition which is to be held during next December. We did not shine in our last effort at exhibiting and certainly it is not a thing to be played with. It must be taken seriously with full determination to do our best or left entirely alone. In this case, Gentlemen, I hope you will decide that we must exhibit and that we must combine to make our exhibits and the arranging of them worthy of our industry.

Two matters that will take up a lot of the time of this Meeting are the questions of shipping and finance. They overlap to such an extent that it is difficult to discuss them apart, yet they must be separated to get a clear view of them. In endeavouring to present your case I have seen more clearly than ever how necessary it is always to have a prompt and clear statement of the case with all details verified before Government can be approached with any measure of success. Every one must help in this, you cannot rely on your Chairman to do it by himself; he would not have the time and if you look upon it as purely secretarial work, as in a way it is, you must be prepared to increase your permanent staff so as to be ready for emergencies. These subjects have not been before the Government in a definite form for very long and further information is required and I trust this will be forthcoming quickly. I am able to give you the following information which I have had from the Revenue Secretary during the last three days:—

“Lastly, I am to assure you that the Government fully recognise the difficult financial position in which the Planters of Southern India have been placed by conditions arising out of the War and you may be assured that they will give their best and most sympathetic consideration to any suggestions for remedying that position. It will, of course, be readily understood that the Government cannot pledge themselves to action which may be beyond their powers or which the further information which is being collected may show to be inappropriate but they certainly desire to do all they can to assist. In the only case in which direct application from an individual planter for assistance has reached Government orders were sent to the Collector of the District by telegram to make an advance sufficient for the immediate necessities of the case.”

Also he has told me that the Government approve of a suggestion that there should be a Conference to which planters and bankers will be summoned to advise Government on the whole question of financial assistance to planters. Further, he writes:—

“I am to tell you that the Government of India have authorised us to state that representations have been made to the Secretary of State urging that better tonnage facilities should be granted for tea shipments from this Presidency.”

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would warn you that your debate on the difficult questions before you will be carefully watched by others. Plain speaking may be necessary and will do no harm, but intolerance.

and self-seeking, even if overruled by better feeling, will not help our case. We seek a solution of our difficulties and this can only be done in a spirit of fair play with each of us giving due consideration to the needs of others, and so I would say if any of us have come here with purpose of pressing our own views in self-interest, in our best interests we should refrain.

## THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. AYLMER FF. MARTIN (Director of the Labour Department), read the following Report on the working of his Department during the year :—

GENTLEMEN,—I submit my Report for the third year's working of the Labour Department.

*Income.*—The subscribing area at the close of the year was 103, 408·79 acres.

Subscriptions at Rs. 2 per acre on Tea, Coffee and Rubber	Rs. 201,181	10	0
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Subscriptions at Re. 1 per acre on Cardamoms „	2,729	0	0
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Total „	2,03,910	10	0
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„ for second year taken in Account for third year	„	194	14	0
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Balance due by subscribers—

First year	Rs. 1,626			
Second „	„ 14,817	„	16,443	0 0

Total „	2,20,547	14	0
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Fourth year subscription received in advance „	159	0	0
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„	2,20,706	14	0
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Deduct 1st and 2nd year's refunds on Cardamoms	2,253	4	0
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Total Income „	2,18,453	10	0
of this, the amount collected was only	„	1,85,361	9 0

leaving the large balance due by subscribers of	33,092	1	0
Interest received from the Bank was	„	963	3 2

*Expenditure.*—The estimate sanctioned by the Control Committee or the year's working was Rs. 2,21,638.

The sum actually spent, including depreciation, was Rs. 210,354 which is less than the estimate by Rs. 11,284.

There was ample room for spending the whole estimate by the establishment of new Indian Agencies, but owing to the War, the financial conditions made it necessary to abandon any expansion in this way, as the new Agencies might any day have to be closed down again. This was most unfortunate as it prevented results being obtained to which we all had the right to look forward. There was nevertheless steady progress under most headings during the year with the means previously established, owing to increased experience and efficiency.

*Accounts.*—The Audited Accounts in your hands show the position on 30th June, 1917.

		Previous year.
<i>Work done.</i> —The number of undisposed cases at the end of the previous year was	2,760	
The number of instances in which the assistance of the Department was invoked during the year was	5,336	4,186
Total	8,102	
Finally disposed of during the year	4,253	2,403
The number of cases which for various reasons and with the consent of subscribers concerned had to be dropped was	116	167

*Pendency.*—The balance of cases about which correspondence, enquiry and action was still in progress at the end of the year was 3 733

*Cash Recoveries.*—The amount of cash which the Department recovered from defaulters and remitted to subscribers was Rs. 35,940 Rs. 27,134  
Only about 1/3rd was the result of action in the Law Court, the remaining 2/3rds being recovered as usual by means of moral suasion, or with the assistance of impromptu panchayats *ad hoc*.

The amount that was found to be irrecoverable by any known means was 3,835 17,689  
And efforts are still being made with reference to further outstanding sums amounting to 52,117 44,558  
Total involved in these cases 91,892 89,381  
The percentage of recovery to demand therefore 30·68 % 35 %  
The fall in percentage is due to the legacy of difficult cases inherited from the previous year included in the Rs. 44,558 as above.

*Defaulters.*—892 defaulters owing Rs. 33,040 agreed to return to the Estates of subscribers when 313 (35 per cent.) owing Rs. 19,164 reached the Estates up to the end of the year. 604 41,097 463 (77 %) Rs. 33,201

The results would have been better but for the favourable agricultural condition of the country—this year, work being available locally and consequently the demands for labour more pressing in the villages than previously.

*Internal Competition.*—Thirty-nine instances were dealt with 19

<i>Unfair Competition.</i> —Internal	13	
External	33	
Total	46	52

*External Competition.*—Only a few cases came to notice and our interests were not deliberately interfered with, certainly not by the responsible Agencies for oversea recruitment. The emigration of coolies from South India



was checked owing to the restrictions imposed on it by Government under the Indian Defence Force Act. Indentured emigration had been stopped voluntarily by the Colonies concerned before these restrictions were enforced. Ceylon and Malaya got all the coolies they required while complying with the conditions laid down by Government.

Previous year.

<i>Information</i> was supplied to Estates about 2,557 Maistries, Kanganies and Labour recruiters. Proper advantage is not taken of the facilities we offer in this respect. Cases have occurred where an advance is given and then information is asked for—this is too late and in one particular instance has led to a big loss to the Estate, and much trouble and expense to the Department without any adequate result.	2,044
<i>Laggards</i> .—1,773 were hurried up.	1,899
<i>Assistance</i> to Maistries, Kanganies and Labour suppliers was given to the number of 1,194.	1,048
<i>Advice</i> was given to those Estates which applied for it.	
<i>Warrants</i> .—120 Civil warrants and 1,151 Criminal warrants have been served during our official year. It will be interesting to have on record the figures for the last year of the operation of Government Order No. 101 of 12th January, 1916, of the Madras Government, <i>i.e.</i> , 1st April, 1916, 31st March, 1917.	83 584

Results were as follows:—

	Total Cases.	Satisfactory Results.	False Names.	Emigrated Cases	Time-barred Cases.
Coimbatore District ...	487	70 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	41	40	65
Trichinopoly ...	39	85 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	1	3	2
Madura ...	46	78 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>100</sub>		6	4
Malabar ...	155	78 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	7	8	15
Salem ...	90	73 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>100</sub>			
Ramnad and Tinnevely.	3	33 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	1	1	
Bellary ...	17	<i>Nil.</i>	14	3	
Mysore State ...	336	45 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	33	1	9
Kollegal Taluk of Coimbatore District ...	148	56 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	17	2	2

The great difference between Mysore State and the other districts is that there is nothing in the nature of G. O. No. 101 to help us. It may be usefully compared to Kollegal taluk which is included in our Mysore Division, where we had 56<sup>0</sup>/<sub>100</sub> of satisfactory results against 45<sup>3</sup>/<sub>100</sub> in Mysore State. I applied on the 22nd July, 1916, to the Government

of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, for similar assistance ; but so far have had no reply. The cases of false names could be further reduced if employers would take pains to give the village names, father's names and addresses correctly of all those whom they employ. I am satisfied that there is a great improvement in this respect since the Department was started.

<i>New Connections.</i> —Systematic and organized search	Previous
for coolies entirely new to Estate work was made in	year
3,980 villages.	2,926

The disappointment I expressed last year has this year deepened. Bellary District having been thoroughly examined proved a blank and the division is now closed down. The other Ceded Districts held out hopes here and there occasionally, but those have come to very little. The only chance of doing more in these districts would be to redouble our efforts, but this means an increase of expenditure, which in these critical times would not be justified. Further work under these circumstances in what we call the Madanapalle Division will therefore close down on the 15th September, by which time arrangements will be made to look after the interests we created in the districts concerned. It can only be hoped that in some future time, when financial and other prospects are brighter, another attempt to exploit that country can again be made.

In the East Coast, controlled from Chingleput, some progress was made. 198 new coolies went to Estates from this division.

Last year I reported that over 1,000 members of the so-called criminal tribes were introduced into the Anamalai District, and at the time they promised to be a satisfactory addition to the labour force, although it was too soon as I said, to say that they were a permanency. I regret that my hopes proved to be too sanguine, and that nearly all of them left the district before their first year was up.

There are now some 40 of them only working.

*Advertising.*—No opportunity of using the Cinama films to advantage has presented itself. Coloured tin tablets are displayed in third-class waiting rooms at all likely stations on the M. & S. M. and South Indian Railways. Their popularity is great if one may judge from the fact that numbers of them have been stolen, and the task of replacing them is a nuisance. General advertising both personal and by distribution of leaflets has been energetically carried out.

*Restriction of Advances.*—Owing to the activities of the Department less trouble has been experienced from these. The slight success in some districts which I mentioned last year has been maintained. In some others, efforts have been made to cope with the trouble, but there has been no general combination to tackle the matter seriously, which I continue to deplore.

*Registration.*—The thumb impressions of 1,642 persons were classified and registered, last year 965 ; total to date 2,607. A directory of Labour Suppliers, Maistries and Kanganies was issued to subscribers.

*Payments.*—We are still asked to make payments on behalf of Estates to Maistries and others. If it is a convenience to subscribers we must continue to oblige them, but I object to it for reasons previously given. The Department does not hold itself responsible in the matter—(see Circular No. 2 of October, 1914).

*Warnings.* 9 Circulars containing the names of 34 men who should not be advanced by subscribers have been issued during the year. Certain villages have also been prescribed.

In conclusion I again make my sincere acknowledgments to those who have supported and assisted the Department during the year. The Chairman and the other Members of the Control Committee have shared my difficulties and anxieties which have been great. The Planting Member of Council has cheerfully met my demands on his valuable time. The Secretary has worked hard to collect subscriptions, a job which no one envies. Subscribers have shown their readiness to allow for mistakes. For all these kindnesses I am very grateful.

BANGALORE,  
17th August, 1917.

### **THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD, M.A., Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, presented the following Report on the working of this Department:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to present to you my Eighth Annual Report, which takes the usual form adopted in past years, being a brief summary of the work done by your Scientific Department during the year.

#### **Staff, Office and Correspondence.**

My office staff throughout the year has consisted as heretofore of one Writer and one Peon, the upkeep being met by a contribution from the Government of Madras.

On 6th April, 1916, your Agreement with the Assistant Scientific Officer for Mysore expired and, the Mysore Planters having decided not to renew it, Mr. Frattini left our service after five years work. He joined the I.A.R.O. and is still undergoing his training.

The Assistant Chemist has carried out his duties in the Laboratory throughout the year in a highly satisfactory manner.

The position with regard to staff remains much as it did eight years ago; one Deputy Director with no Assistants beyond an Analyst for a charge of 153,000 acres scattered from Coorg and Mysore down to Cape Comorin. Comment on such a position is unnecessary!

During the year 1,028 letters have been received and 850 written, somewhat less than usual, but this part of my duties absorbs most of my time when I am at headquarters.

A record has been kept of the number of planters and others who have called at my office to consult me during the year; it shows 62.

#### **Publications.**

I have as usual contributed regularly to the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle* and have written during the period under review 61 articles comprising 80 pages of that Journal. In addition to this 29 Market Reports have been published comprising 67 pages.

*Tours.*—During the year I have made a number of tours, being absent from Head-quarters for 124 days. The following Districts have been visited in the order named: the Wynaad, Coorg, Shevaroy's, High Range of Travancore, West Coast. On the first and last of these tours I was

accompanied by the Government Mycologist. In the course of these tours I visited as many estates as possible and attended several Meetings of planters and delivered five lectures. I attended College Day and the Agricultural Conference held at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, in July, 1916, a special Conference of Mycologists and Entomologists at Pusa in February at which diseases of plantation crops were discussed in detail and notes compared with experts from North India and other places. This Conference was in the nature of an experiment but proved of such great value to all those present, who were afforded an opportunity of discussing their work and comparing notes in an informal manner, that it is to be hoped it will become a regular thing. While at Pusa I attended a private Conference to discuss with the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India the merits of an internal Pest Act in India and its possibilities, I also attended the Meeting of the Indian Science Congress held at Bangalore in January and read a paper in the Agricultural Section on the Planting Industries of Southern India which has since been published in the *Agricultural Journal of India*. I attended two Meetings of the Scientific Committee held at Bangalore and Calicut and two Meetings of the Rubber Growers' Association held at Cochin and Calicut respectively. At the last of these Mr. Marsden, the Rubber Growers' Association Chemist in Ceylon was present; he accompanied me afterwards to visit some of the Rubber estates.

These tours have necessitated my travelling a distance of 5,440 miles by rail and 2,111 miles by road.

*Scientific Work, Pests, Diseases, Etc.* The effect of the European War has been increasingly felt during the year. Estates are short-handed and naturally unwilling to undertake experimental work owing to the difficulty of supervising it. The prices of fertilisers continue to advance and many of those we have been accustomed to use and depend upon are now quite unobtainable. Prices of our products have on the whole been good, but difficulties of shipping have been great and prohibition rules have caused much trouble and disorganization.

*Coffee.*—Manurial experiments and manurial systems have been disturbed by the difficulties of obtaining fertilisers, but are being continued as far as is possible.

A certain amount of spraying has been done as a preventive against Black Rot and Leaf Disease with a fair amount of success.

In the case of Black Rot our experiments have shown that spraying with Bordeaux Mixture is a practical and feasible remedy. Black Rot occurs as a rule on comparatively small patches of coffee and usually on the same patches each year. If these patches are pruned regularly so as to make the bushes easily accessible to the spraying gang they can be sprayed each year before the monsoon, and if necessary again in the break of the monsoon, though the second spraying is as a rule unnecessary if the first is thoroughly done. This treatment prevents coffee being attacked by the fungus to any large extent and saves the crop.

Spraying for Leaf Disease is another question. In this case large areas must be sprayed to produce any marked or permanent effect, and not only isolated patches, and this is not always possible owing to lack of labour, or water. Our experiments, however, show very conclusively that if large areas of coffee up to 100 acres or more can be

sprayed at a time when the foliage is free from Leaf Disease spots and just before the period when this disease is known to generally make its appearance, then the virulence of the attack is reduced, and after a few years consistent spraying it would probably be reduced to a negligible minimum. Unless spraying is done over large areas at one time, however, the sprayed patches are quickly reinfected from the neighbouring untreated portions and little effect is produced on the attack of the disease as a whole. The practicability of the method is being studied.

Scale insects are still troublesome and *Coccus viride* has been generally present though not so bad as in past years. Early rains allowed the parasitic fungi to start growth early and these largely control the scale. Spraying and the systematic destruction of ants are now regular practices on the estates, and this pest may be said to be fairly well under control. Fish oil resin soap, now manufactured by the Madras Fisheries' Department at Tanur, has been found the best spray material to use for all scale insects.

Coffee Borer has been less prevalent than in past years and this pest appears to have definite cycles.

A new pest has been reported during the year in the shape of a Tiger Beetle (*Collyris*) boring in young coffee stems in the Shevaroy District. This is of limited occurrence and a minor pest of more scientific interest than anything else at present.

*Tea*.—The Brown and Grey Blights of tea due to the fungi (*Colletotrichum camelliae* and *Pestalozzi guipini*) have continued to cause damage and have been noted in several districts. These fungi are probably present in all tea districts and under certain circumstances due to conditions which are not fully understood, can become serious and cause considerable loss. The Government Mycologist accompanied me on a tour in the Wynaad in February especially to study this disease and he has afforded us much valuable aid in adopting measures for its control, measures which have proved eminently successful.

A leaf fall due to the attack of a species of *Gleosporium* made its appearance on one estate in Travancore two years ago and is still causing trouble each year though it can be controlled. This seems at present to be a rare disease on tea.

*Helopeltis*.—Still continues to be troublesome especially in the districts of Peermade and Central Travancore. Though occasionally noticed in the Wynaad and Nilgiri Wynaad it never spreads or does any material change. Possibly in these districts climatic conditions are unfavourable to it.

The worst attack occurs during the monsoon months when spraying is impossible and our experience fully endorses that of Mr. Andrews of the Indian Tea Association, *viz.*, that spray fluids are useless in the case of a bad attack and a combination of spraying at the beginning of an attack with hand catching and cultural methods are the only possible methods of control. Personally I lay great stress on pruning large areas at such a time that the young flush will get away before the attack of *Helopeltis* begins and possibly spraying such areas at the very beginning of an attack if the weather is favourable.

A new pest was reported during the year from Wynaad in the shape of *Contheyla rotunda*. The caterpillars did a little local damage to tea but were controlled by pruning and hand-picking.

Specimens of *Terias silhetna* were reported from Mundakayam (Travancore) attacking *Albizzia* in tea and the tea beneath it. This again was easily controlled and a purely sporadic attack.

A few cases of eelworms attacking seedlings in nurseries were reported. This trouble is apt to occur in old nurseries, and the remedy is not to use a nursery more than once.

*Rubber.*—The series of manurial experiments at Kerala have been continued and it is hoped before long to publish the results of a three-year trial of certain manures.

The study of the abnormal leaf fall has been continued in co-operation with the Government Mycologist. Mr. McRae has worked out the life history of the fungus and shown that it gains entrance to the tree through the fruit pod and carries over the dry weather between dead and living wood in branches which it has killed back. If all dead branches can be removed in the dry weather and destroyed and all fruit pods removed before the monsoon it should be possible to protect the trees from attack to a large extent. We made an extended tour of the rubber districts embracing Malabar, Cochin, Mundakayam and South Travancore during April when four experiment plots, each of 100 acres, were laid down, on which to test the efficacy of these measures.

No new diseases of importance were reported during the year. Much remains to be done in the study of existing diseases, but little progress can be made until the staff is increased and a Mycologist for Planting Districts appointed. Our thanks are due to Mr. McRae for all the time and work he has devoted to our problems in addition to his own numerous and onerous duties.

### Laboratory.

A Special Report on the working of the Analytical Branch of the Department has been laid before the Finance Committee. Partly owing to the advance in price of all chemicals, an advance in some cases so high that it could not be foreseen, we again work at a loss despite the fact that 150 samples have been analysed during the year, 35 of which were soils, and Rs. 1,530 have been earned in fees.

A certain amount of dissatisfaction has been caused by delay in the issue of analyses of soil samples submitted to us. This is caused by the unequal distribution of this work, a batch of samples are received all at once, enough to keep us busy for three or four months and naturally someone has to wait. With our present staff and equipment we can only analyse 50 soil samples in the year and to avoid disappointment we hope to devise some system by which we may receive samples regularly at the rate of four a month.

### The Scientific Department.

The sites for the first four experiment stations have now been decided upon, and one of them has been surveyed. So far no work has been possible as the sanction of the Government of Madras was awaited. Now, however, the Government have sanctioned the expenditure on buildings of Rs. 17,500 during the current financial year and after the monsoon it is hoped to make a start.

The Meeting then adjourned for the day.

*Second day, Tuesday, 21st August, 1917,  
at 10 a.m.*

### **MEETING OF COMMITTEE A.**

A General Committee Meeting of all the delegates met at 10 A.M. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings stated that, as far as he knew, the following subjects would be brought before the Committee by the gentlemen mentioned.—Shipping Freights and Tonnage by Mr. J. J. Murphy, Financing the Planting Industries by Mr. R. Ainsworth, Tea Allotments by Mr. J. A. Richardson, British Empire Producers' Organisation by Mr. J. A. Richardson, the *Planters' Chronicle* by Mr. Leslie-Rogers, the Planters' Benevolent Fund, Fire Insurance on Tea Factories by Mr. C. E. Abbott, Indian Trade Commission in London by Mr. F. M. Hamilton, Roads and Communications by Mr. Congreve and Mr. Hayward.

The CHAIRMAN said that in connection with the first two subjects the Hon'ble Mr. Barber would read the correspondence with the Government that would elucidate the present position.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the first letter that he would read would be that on shipping tonnage and finance which he had written to the Government of Madras. Before reading the letter he would like to say that it was open to the Meeting, if it so wished, to cancel, amplify or in any other way deal with any statements that he had made in this letter. He then read the letter :—

E. F. BARBER.

OOTACAMUND,  
16th August, 1917.

MY DEAR KNAPP,

### **SHIPPING AND FINANCE.**

As the United Planters' Association of Southern India Meeting is on Monday next, and as it has been impossible to arrive at any conclusion on the matters we have discussed, I think it is as well to recapitulate as shortly as possible the points that have come up for discussion.

The whole position in regard to Shipping and Finance is a difficult one to discuss, different factors enter in but they overlap, and directly one aspect of the matter is examined some other issue obtrudes itself and the point becomes obscured.

It is chiefly this that makes it difficult for us to put our case before the Government in a clear and concise manner, but it is also difficult to collect the data required from a scattered community dealing in different products and representing varied interests.

I think if the disabilities of the Planting Industry are compartmented as far as possible, they will prove easier of solution.

### 1. Difficulties caused by the restriction of exports—

- (a) of those who have the export of their produce entirely prohibited, *e.g.*, Coffee planters,
- (b) of those whose export is restricted by the Food Controller at Home and
- (c) those difficulties due to the further restriction imposed by the lack of tonnage.

It is quite understood that we have no complaint to make because the restrictions have been found necessary. Our only request is that we may be assured that the Government of Madras will look after our interests and will see that we receive even treatment as compared with other producers in the Empire, and better treatment as compared with producers in the rest of the world.

We find it impossible to collect accurate details in regard to this but we firmly believe that we are not receiving even treatment.

1. We are told that Brazil coffee was imported into the United Kingdom after effect had been given to the prohibition of East India coffee. There may be some good reason for this but I have not heard of it.

2. We find that the exports of tea from Ceylon are very little less for the period January to June this year than they were last year and in previous years, a matter of 5 or 6 per cent. at the most. I do not know what crop is now held up in India but from figures I have been given I do not think it can be less than 20 per cent. of our half year's crop.

3. A Ceylon Ordinance, dated 9th August, prohibits the import of tea into Ceylon except under permit, and at the same time we find the import of Ceylon tea into India is increasing rapidly as I think the Customs figures for June will show.

4. We are told that there is little difficulty in shipping tea from Calcutta, and no difficulty in shipping rubber from Burmah and the Straits.

5. Ships have been stopped from calling at the West Coast ports and Tuticorin, and those that call at Madras take little more than Government requirements yet we hear of those same ships going on to Colombo and taking Estate cargo from there.

6. There is one other point that has been raised and that is in regard to the purchase of War Office requirements of tea. I believe that some concerns have secured contracts that will enable them to sell and ship their whole crop. This, of course, is an advantage to individual concerns, but I do not think it is right that there should be individual treatment at a time like this when Government must be anxious to prevent the collapse of the whole industry.

## II. Financial Difficulties.

- (a) Of those who have no money and have no gathered crop to offer as security.
- (b) Of those with no money and who are unable to ship or otherwise dispose of their produce.



- (c) Of those who are able to ship some part of their produce, but not to such an extent as to enable them to keep going.
- (d) Those difficulties caused by the restrictions of exchange which may effect those who have produce shipped and money at Home.

There are possibly some other difficulties but I think it is only necessary to consider these to decide if relief should be given and what form this relief might take.

I am aware that a case that may be considered as coming under the heading (a) has already been before the Government. I think there are likely to be other cases of this nature for it is not unusual for Coffee planters to finance their Estates by hypothecating their crops months before they reach maturity.

The difficulties of those in (b) and (c) are similar, if they cannot get an Agent or a Bank to advance them against crop in godown.

In regard to tea I do not believe that any difficulty will be felt provided space is available to enable them to ship the full quantity allowed by the Food Controller (though some hardship may be felt by those Estates which are only partially developed and are relying on their revenue to come fully into bearing) and provided the Banks can either purchase bills or give over drafts against securities at Home.

This brings us to (d) and as far as I am aware these difficulties are purely in anticipation, for hitherto I do not think that the Exchange Banks have failed to purchase bills drawn against Estate produce and I believe that this is a claim that they make themselves. It was, however, the warning of the Exchange Banks that they might not be able to purchase planters' bills in the future to the extent they had done in the past, that caused the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. to call the Meeting in Madras when representatives of all the leading Banks were present, in order to discuss a situation that might arise.

It is obvious that the question of tonnage and shipments does affect and influence the manner of financial assistance to a very great extent, for, as more and more crop gets held up in the country more planters are likely to come under the categories of (a) (b) and (c) and to some extent the burden of the exchange difficulty will be lightened to the Banks by the restrictions of exports, though those with money or securities at Home will still look to them to buy their bills.

I cannot find any clear way of expressing myself, but it seems to me that a total restriction of exports coupled with free exchange would lead to exactly the same result as free exports coupled with total disability in effecting exchange and that in either case planters would have to look for financial assistance to their full requirement in the country itself if their industry is to be saved from ruin.

If this be so, the two factors on which the amount of assistance required by planters depends, are entirely beyond the purview for the planters themselves.

Of course I am aware that the amount of financial assistance required will bear some proportion to the total amount of the planting requirements, but even if that total be given accurately the proportion will be so indefinite as to make the total of little importance, except as being a figure that will not be exceeded.

I have been asked to collect the information as regards the total requirements of planters and a circular has been sent out by the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I., in order to secure this, but as the matter would appear to be one of urgency, I would point out that information as to approximate requirements can be obtained in two other ways both of which can be used to check the return asked for and both of which would indicate the limit to which financial assistance might be required:—

1. By application to the Banks, to find out what financial requirements of estates have been negotiated over a certain period.

2. By the export figures, which can be multiplied by the known costs of production.

The first figure might include the gross sale proceeds of Rupee Companies which, however, are not numerous, but it will not include finance through other channels than the Banks.

The second figure will not include the cost of upkeep on places that have been developed during the last two or three years.

At present I have no official intimation as to what views the Government of Madras hold on these matters, and I go to the Planters' Meeting at Bangalore with no information that will allay the natural anxiety the planters feel both as regards the future and as regards the attitude of the Government towards their difficulties.

I shall be glad if you will make it quite clear that the views I have expressed are on behalf of the planters in Native States as well as of those in the Presidency.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) E. F. BARBER.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. A. R. KNAPP, I.C.S.,

*Revenue Secretary to the Government of Madras,  
Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund.*

He then explained that this letter had been crossed by one of even date which had been written by the Revenue Secretary of the Government of Madras to him. It dealt entirely with the financial aspect of the question. He read the letter of the Government of Madras.

D. O. No. 7 G/17-3.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT,  
OOTACAMUND.  
*Dated 16th August, 1917.*

MY DEAR BARBER,

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of August, 1917, enclosing a letter from Nicolls, dated 8th August.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Government, while appreciating your anxiety to lay before the forthcoming Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., a definite pronouncement on the subject of the financial position and prospects of planters, regret that they are not in a position to give any further undertaking than was conveyed in my letter of 1st August, 1917, to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

3. Of the four proposals put forward at the Meeting held in Madras on the 30th and 31st May and communicated to Government in Mr. Norton's letter of the 27th of June, the first and second, which relate to Council bills, raise a question which it is not within the province of this Government to decide. The proposals have, as I have already stated, been laid before the Government of India. So far as this Government's information goes, it seems unlikely that either of the proposals can be adopted. Since the date of the Planters' Meeting in May, the Council Bill allotment, so far from being increased, has been reduced. Again, the suggestion that a certain amount of Council bills might be ear-marked for Estate requirements hardly seems feasible, inasmuch as the first call upon Council bills must be for the purpose of financing exports required for War purposes. The amount of such exports will necessarily vary week by week so that the setting aside of any definite sum in Council bills for other purposes is impracticable, I may add that considerable doubt as to the feasibility of either of these proposals appears to have been felt by the Committee appointed by the Meeting held in Madras to investigate the matter.

4. The proposal for the issue of currency notes of small denominations is also a matter upon which this Government is not in a position to make any pronouncement; from notices in the Press, the matter is already before the Government of India but the actual provision of notes must take time. I am to observe that while such a step would no doubt tend to relieve currency difficulties, it is not apparent how it would be of special use to the planters or help them in the peculiar financial position in which they are placed.

5. There remains the proposal that the Government might make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate bills. In respect to this, the U.P.A.S.I. has already been informed that the Government must wait for the further detailed information which is being collected as to the amount, extent and nature of the financial aid which may be required. The letter from Nicolls suggests that sufficient information on the subject is already before Government, but I am to point out that in the correspondence forwarded with Mr. Norton's letter of the 27th of June, two different figures were given, the letter itself placing the requirements at eight lakhs a week, while the report of the Committee placed the figures at five lakhs, neither was based on exact information.

6. Regarding the assistance which the Banks are likely to be able to render, the information is similarly incomplete. At the Meeting in May, a representative of one Bank suggested that, if the Government would provide the money required, his Bank would be prepared to set it aside for purchasing Estate bills, and it may perhaps be assumed that other Banks in the Presidency would do the same; but there is as yet no information on the most important question, *viz.*, how far the planters' requirements are likely to be met by Banks from their own resources. As the Government understand the matter, planters may ask to be assisted in one of two ways :-

(a) directly, by loans to those who have come to the end of their resources; or

(b) indirectly, by the purchase of bills from planters who have funds in England which they are unable at present to bring out to this country.

Until the position of individual planter has been ascertained in the enquiry which is now going on, it is obviously impossible to determine how far the Banks themselves are likely to be able to meet the planters' demand under both these heads and how far Government assistance should be invoked.

7. Lastly, I am to assure you that the Government fully recognise the different financial positions in which the Planters of Southern India have been placed by conditions arising out of the War and you may be assured that they will give their best and most sympathetic consideration to any suggestions for remedying that position. It will, of course, be readily understood that the Government cannot pledge themselves to action which may be beyond their powers or which the further information which is being collected may show to be inappropriate but they certainly desire to do all they can to assist. In the only case in which direct application from an individual planter for assistance has reached Government, orders were sent to the Collector of the District by telegram to make an advance sufficient for the immediate necessities of the case.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER,

*Ootacamund.*

The points, Mr. Barber continued, on which information was required was (1) the question of coffee imports from Brazil, (2) figures of the shipments of tea from Colombo from March to June. The figures before Government included those of January and February; (3) what facilities existed for shipping rubber from Burma and the Straits; (4) the facilities for shipping tea in Calcutta and Chittagong; (5) whether ships leaving Madras without planting produce afterwards took it up at Colombo, (6) the question of the War Office purchases of tea. The Government of Madras were under the impression that 45 tons was the limit reserved for War Office requirements. Evidently it was a mistake as far as South India was concerned.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) said that he knew for a fact the planter concerned made no secret of it that the Stanmore and another Estate on the Anamalais had a contract for 100,000 lbs. a month up to the end of the year and renewable for another year. The tea was shipped from Colombo and had the first call on all Ceylon shipping tonnage.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he had given Mr. Waddington the figures Mr. Barber had asked for, but they would be available at this Meeting. The last Indian Tea Association Circular had a paragraph regarding the holding up of tea shipments in Calcutta and Chittagong which was now before that Association. The shippers had been asked to furnish figures from which it had been ascertained that altogether 67,175 chests of 1916 tea and 70,000 chests of the current season's tea were awaiting shipment at Chittagong alone. On the 24th July, the Committee wrote to its London Association pointing out that the steamer for July had just taken 40,000 chests including 13,000 chests of Government tea. At this rate the balance of the 1916 tea could not be shipped this year, let alone any of the new crop.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Apparently they have no better facilities than we have.

Mr. ABBOTT.—At least they are shipping 8 million lbs. a month, We are not shipping any. We have an allotment of over a million lbs. a month, but we cannot get the ships.

Mr. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam) said that what they should do was to draft a strong Resolution complaining strongly that only so recently as the 8th August a statement was made in Parliament by Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State, that the question of shipping tea and rubber from the West Coast ports had not yet been before the Government of India. They heard a good deal about Government sympathy for them but he did not think too much of it, if this was a case in point.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore) read the following telegram: "Have addressed following telegram to Ministry Shipping London, copy to Government of India Home Department, Simla, begins, understand Tuticorin tonnage requirements hitherto entirely ignored, port open all year round, situation acute, earnestly pray early space minimum three thousand tons Tea Rubber Cotton, Tuticorin, London, Liverpool, kindly reply ends, request favour strong support Madras Government as matter growing exceedingly serious:" which he had just received from the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce which was a copy of one which had been sent to Government pointing out the hardships and loss that was being entailed on all by the absolute dearth of shipping at that port. He thought it ought to be put before the Meeting in view of what Mr. Murphy had just said.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the statement made by Mr. Montagu was probably due to the reason that tea and rubber had not been specifically mentioned at the General Meeting about the shortage of freight held in Madras. He did not know that anything had been mentioned except coffee, which was the burning question at the time, and they had rather made a special point of that in order to get the extra amount away before the monsoon closed the West Coast ports. He knew for a fact that the whole question of tonnage was engaging the attention of Government long before that date.

Mr. MURPHY.—But don't you think that the Government of Madras should have approached the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER—I am sure they did.

Mr. MURPHY.—Then Mr. Montagu said what was not true.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Mr. Montagu mentioned tea and rubber. My point is that tea and rubber were not specifically mentioned at the time we met and addressed the Government of Madras.

Mr. MURPHY.—I think we ought to send a Resolution on the subject. Of course it is open to the Meeting to modify it if it is too strong.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER pointed out that the difficulty about all Government correspondence was that there was a good deal of necessary official reticence in regard to matters which were under discussion between two Governments, the Governments of Madras and of India for example. He believed that on this matter there was any amount of information available which they had not got.

Mr. MURPHY.—If this matter had been put before the Government of India and the Secretary of State, it was hardly possible that the latter would get up in Parliament and say that that it had not been put before him by the Government of India. There was no reason why he should deny the whole thing.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) quite agreed with Mr. Murphy. It was over three months since any tea had been shipped. Surely they had a right to expect that the Government of India should be able to do something in that time. The matter had been brought to their notice by their Chairman months ago. Surely if they had taken the trouble to wire to the Controller of Shipping, telling him what produce was available and when it would be available, facilities would have been given to remove it. At present Ceylon and Northern India could get away what they wanted. Was South India to wait for six months and more?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Are you prepared to put up your figures at once?

It was pointed out that the figures for tea, coffee and rubber had long been available.

Mr. AINSWORTH (Wynaad) said that as regards the matter of bringing the matter before the Government of India, he desired to point out that on the 20th June a Meeting was held in London of all the tea and rubber companies concerned in South India and a cable was sent out which read as follows:—

“Fully representative Meeting South Indian Producers' shippers held yesterday decided approach Shipping Controller view to his continuing grant facilities shipment tea from South Indian ports and to ask you to strongly represent to Governor Madras serious effects withdrawal of same would entail can we do anything further this side.”

He would like to know what action was taken.

The CHAIRMAN.—We wired Home.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—The *Planters' Chronicle* only says that “action was taken in the proper quarter.” No mention is made as to whether the matter was placed before the Government of Madras or the Government of India.

The CHAIRMAN.—It was.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—We were not informed about it.

The CHAIRMAN.—If you read the letter of Mr. Brooke Mockett to the Secretary, dated the 19th July, you will see that representations were made.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—They were made at Home. Were they made out here?

After some further conversation, the Chairman said that the matter was put before the Government of Madras by Mr. Barber on the 18th July.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—The cable was sent from London on the 20th June.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—The cable I am thinking of was dated the 16th July.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—That was the cable from the Empire Producers' Organization.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he thought that at least three gentlemen in the room could speak to what had been done in the way of keeping the Government informed of what was taking place in regard to these matters. There was not much in writing; but more than one gentleman in the room had accompanied him in Ootacamund when he had interviews with the members of Government in regard to these questions.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he thought the Meeting would agree that their interests had not been neglected, either by the Chairman or the Hon'ble Mr. Barber. Quite the contrary. The point he gathered that Mr. Murphy wished to raise was that the Government of Madras had not passed on their Resolutions and requests to the Government of India. If the matters were still under correspondence, he believed it would be premature for matters of this sort to be mentioned. He explained the Parliamentary procedure in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said he could not quite understand the Secretary of State's announcement. He knew for a fact that the Government of Madras had enquired from the Government of India some time about the middle of last month, asking what the requirements were. He was sure if the Government of India knew that, it ought to be known at Home.

Mr. RICHARDSON and Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) both testified to the hard work they had personally witnessed Mr. Barber put in with the Government of Madras at Ootacamund over these questions.

Mr. MURPHY said at this stage that he was sorry if either Mr. Barber or the Chairman regarded his Resolution as a vote of censure.

The CHAIRMAN and Mr. BARBER.—Not at all. Far from it.

The CHAIRMAN.—With reference to the wire Mr. Ainsworth has referred to, it was sent off the next day after receiving it.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—To whom?

The CHAIRMAN.—The Government of Madras. I had an interview covering this question on the 9th July and put the matter very forcibly before the Government.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—Surely it would be much better if all this was recorded in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

The CHAIRMAN.—Apparently it would be most advisable to do so.

Mr. MURPHY.—I will give notice of my Resolution and will welcome any amendments, and I should like to add "and that Government be asked to receive a deputation from this Association with reference to tonnage for all our products."

Mr. AINSWORTH.—I quite agree, I think that something on these lines should be done.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.—May I give notice that I wish to move an Amendment to this Resolution?

## Finance.

Mr. R. AINSWORTH in opening this question said:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I wish to address the Committee on the subject of Finance, and in doing so I first of all desire to say that I am in complete agreement with the Hon'ble Mr. Barber's remarks as to the advisability, or rather necessity of our presenting a united front to Government. It is perhaps hardly necessary for me to say that the financing of the Planting Industry of South India is mainly done by means of Bills on London, which are taken up by the Exchange Banks, who, in turn, depend for funds with which to purchase these drafts, upon the Council Bills which are sold weekly by the Secretary of State in London. We are, therefore, very closely affected by the Exchange position, and there will be no harm in my reviewing it briefly. Up to the end of 1916 the export industries of India were in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding tonnage difficulties, and exports could be financed to any extent owing to the absence of restrictions on the sale of Council Bills.

In December, 1916, the Secretary of State announced, without warning, that the sale of Council Bills would forthwith be restricted to 120 lakhs per week, and it was mainly due, I believe, to the hints let fall by the Exchange Banks after this restriction had been in force some time, that your Meeting held in Madras at the end of May, was convened.

I will now refer to the proceedings of that Meeting which, as you are aware, occupied two days. The proceedings on the first day consisted of speeches by Mr. Barber and various delegates, and Sir Bernard Hunter and Mr. Black also spoke. Mr. Barber suggested takkavi loans, but concrete proposals were not placed before the Meeting, which was adjourned. At the following day's Meeting I formulated the following proposals for recommendation to Government. “(1) That the Council Bill allotment should be raised above Rs. 120 lakhs per week; or (2) a certain amount of Council Bills should be ear-marked for Estate requirements; or (3) Government should make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills; and that (4) Re. 1 and Rs. 2 notes should be issued at once.”

I may also add that I intended referring to the question of gold imports, but I refrained from doing so at the desire of your Chairman, who appeared to be under the impression, subsequently shown to be ill-founded, that this was a matter which Government were not prepared to consider under any circumstances. The proposals were brought before the Meeting with the firm conviction that in them lay the path along which Government could best meet us, and in the belief that their adoption would meet the situation to the mutual satisfaction of Government and the whole body of planters.

As you are aware, my proposals were unanimously accepted by the Meeting and a Committee was appointed consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, Messrs. Browne, Richardson and myself with these terms of reference:—

“That a Committee be formed to go carefully into the necessary Estate requirements and be empowered to interview the Banks as to how far they can meet the situation and any other subject in this connection.”



The report of this Committee was issued as a circular by the U. P. A. S. I. on 3rd July. You will all have read it. It proves, by quoting the opinion of a leading banker on the subject, that my third proposal was a feasible one. I will read out Mr. Black's views on that proposal:

"On (3) Advances to Exchange Banks Mr. Black was in complete agreement with this proposal, and said that if Government would provide the money the Exchange Banks would no doubt be willing to offer Government the security required by them. Mr. Black said that Government might possibly spare the money in this way but certainly not, in his opinion in the form of Council Bills."

Mr. Black further stated that, assuming that Government provided funds on the foregoing lines, Banks would therewith purchase the sterling Bills drawn to meet Estate requirements. Now, gentlemen, what is clearer than that? We are given an expression of his views by one of the leading Bank Managers in Madras, which cannot be lightly set aside.

I now come to a matter on which I am compelled to say that I consider an explanation is due to those members of the Finance Committee who stayed on in Madras for the purpose of drawing up the Committee Report. It is this. By the evening of the 31st May, the work of the Committee had proceeded as far as was then possible, and considering the extreme seriousness and urgency of the matter, the full Committee should have waited over in Madras for another day for the purpose of drawing up and signing the proceedings, which should then have been forwarded to Government with the least possible delay. Instead of that, Mr. Browne and I were left to complete the work, as the other members of the Committee departed by the night Mail of the 31st May. However, the Minutes were drawn up, signed by Mr. Browne and myself, and sent to Messrs. Barber, Nicolls and Richardson on the 1st June. You will naturally be under the impression, Gentlemen, that the proceedings were signed and forwarded to Government by the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. at once. This is, however, not the case; they were not forwarded until the 27th June, nearly four weeks after the Meeting. In the meantime, on the 25th June, to be precise, Government found it necessary (not having at that time the Madras Finance Meeting and Committee's Reports before them), to telegraph to Sir Bernard Hunter regarding the present financial position of the Planting Industry, to which Sir Bernard Hunter replied on the same date: "Planters' rough estimate of requirements eight lakhs weekly. Exchange Banks unable to guarantee purchase of planters' bills to large extent owing uncertainty of Council allotments and requirements for War Office Bills. Believe so far all necessary finance has been met. Bank of Madras hope to lend assistance when loan operations completed." In the letter covering this telegram Sir Bernard Hunter says: "With regard to the assistance Government may find it necessary to give the planters in my opinion the best way such advances could be controlled would be to insist on all planters and Companies requiring Government help to form themselves into a Co-operative Society so that each one will be liable for the loans to others. In this way demands will be kept down to the minimum and undesirable borrowers eliminated. Government could then make advances to the Co-operative Society direct or through the Banks."

Now, gentlemen, although this scheme comes from Sir Bernard Hunter, I can only describe it as unsound. As I have pointed out above, it is not an alternative to the proposals of your own Committee, inasmuch as those proposals were not before Government when this letter was written.

The question of the small planter has been raised, and it has been suggested that the adoption of the Committee's proposals would tend to force him into the hands of his Agents. It has also been stated that the Bank of Madras was purposely excluded from the Madras Resolutions. This is entirely incorrect. The small man will require assistance, and it is essential that Government should provide him with that assistance. If he is not in a position to benefit by the assistance which would be provided if the Resolution were adopted by Government, he must be assisted in some other manner and the manner in which that assistance should be rendered should be gone into by this Meeting.

Again, those who wish to deal with the Bank of Madras are at perfect liberty to do so; but those who wish to continue their present connection with the Exchange Banks, must not be compelled to make a change.

I now come to the question of the actual amount of assistance which will be required from Government. In the event of the Madras proposals being adopted, this is a matter between the Exchange Banks and Government because the amount of assistance will not be the total amount of our requirements, but will be the difference between those requirements and the amount the Banks can provide themselves out of the Exchange available. In addition to this, of course, will be the amount of the loans granted by Government direct or through the Bank of Madras.

The figure of Rs. 8 lakhs per week which I mentioned in Madras I afterwards found to be somewhat on the high side. Based on actual acreage, about Rs. 6½ lakhs is the correct figure, so that I consider the figure of Rs. 5 lakhs mentioned as the minimum in the Finance Committee's Report need not be further questioned.

I would now like to quote the concluding paragraph of the *Madras Mail's* leader on "Planters and Finance" in the issue of 6th June as follows:—

"The third suggestion could be adopted without the slightest financial risk to Government, as the advances would be guaranteed by the Exchange Banks on the security of money actually in their London offices."

Mr. Barber informed us yesterday that it was proposed to hold a Meeting of Planters and Bankers shortly. Gentlemen, we have already held one Meeting at which financial proposals which will meet our case were unanimously carried. Is the opinion of that Meeting to be totally disregarded?

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would earnestly ask you to consider the advisability of re-affirming the Resolutions passed unanimously at the Madras Meeting, and of urging Government to adopt the third Resolution without further delay.

With regard to the alleged delay in sending forward the Resolution passed at the Madras Meeting, the Chairman showed that, according to the terms of the Resolution it had to receive the approval and sanction of the Council of the U. P. A. S. I. The moment this was received the proceedings went forward. If Mr. Ainsworth had been a Chairman or a Secretary of his District Association, he would have known that this was being done. It was a matter that required a certain amount of time.

Mr. ABBOTT said that the Chairman had put Mr. Ainsworth's right on a more or less minor point. He gathered that what Mr. Ainsworth wanted to say was that it was hardly necessary to hold another Meeting when they could confirm the Resolutions already arrived at. Did they approve those proposals or were they going to turn them down? Did they hold by these Resolutions passed at Madras and approved by them as an Association—or at any rate by No. 3 of these proposals? That was the principal point.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that possibly the only thing that would prevent that proposal going through would be the lack of information as to the amount required. It was easy to say that it was the difference between what the Banks could let them have and their total requirements, but that was not definite information, and without definite information it was impossible for them to get on.

Mr. AINSWORTH: We have told them that it was Rs. 5 lakhs a week.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Who has decided on that figure? It is an indefinite figure.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—I say now that we can put that forward as a definite figure.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—That won't do; they want our total requirements.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that with regard to these estimates he personally thought that they had rather stultified themselves in the Madras statement. There the figures were made to vary from Rs. 3½ lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs a week. He thought that Mr. Knapp's letter was simply a mild form of snub and the Government had let them down very kindly. Government were not going to do anything until they had something more definite upon which to go; they wanted to see the expenditure and they had every right to see it. It was certain that they were not going to accept the figures of from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs mentioned. They had attempted to get these figures through the Tea Allotment Committees that sat last month. Different districts attempted to get the expenditure figures. He had seen some of the returns: he understood that some people refused to give the figures, some had torn off the last sheet of the form; others had written across; —“These figures are not to be given.” He did not know what the Government was going to think of these remarks. It would not help them at all; they should give the Government all the information they asked for.

Mr. MURPHY said that he did not see why Government should not get this information from the Exchange Banks. If the Government was not able to help them to their ultimate requirements and could not give them as much money as they wanted, they would have to reduce

expenditure and would know where they stood. If they were going through all these forms after they had been collected and scrutinised and sent to Government, there was no knowing when they would get the money—certainly not before the end of the year.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Don't you think there are any requirements which don't go through the Exchange Banks.

Mr. MURPHY.—All go through some Bank.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he had tried to represent the case as both Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Murphy had represented it, but he had always been met with the contention that they must put forward definite figures. They had asked him to put their case forward: he did, and got the definite reply that Government must have the figures correctly. He then came to them and they said "Why should we give these figures correctly?" His reply was that they would not get assistance unless they did. That was precisely how the matter stood. The Hon'ble Mr. Cobb representing the Coorg Administration had said precisely the same thing the previous day. There was not much use carrying on this discussion unless they were prepared to meet the wishes of the Government.

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) said that he quite agreed with what Mr. Barber had said. If they wanted assistance they must give the information asked for. As far as the estimate of Rs. 5 lakhs a week was concerned, personally he thought it was quite wrong. It would come to a great deal less than Rs. 5 lakhs, it would be much more like Rs. 3 lakhs.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT said that what Mr. Murphy said was quite true. If they were going on with these forms, some people would object to fill them in. No firm would object to say that their requirements were so much a week or month and if it was put in that simple form, men would answer by return of post how much money they thought they would want per week or per month, without all these details of acreage and crop. They were not asking for charity; they were asking for the money to be given through the Exchange Banks. If they asked a man what his requirements were in a simple form, they would get the information; but if they asked him to give his acreage, his crop, the mortgages on his Estate, it was very possible that he would be unwilling to send this in to be scrutinised by a Committee of his neighbours. He wanted so much money and had good security and the Exchange Banks had his money. His agents were perfectly willing to advance money on the hypothecation of his crops as long as the money could be sent out here. It was a perfectly simple transaction and the Exchange Banks would know how to protect themselves. But if these forms were to be sent to a scrutinising Committee and then they were to be sent up here to be checked by the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. and then they had to go to Government to be checked all over again, he thought it would be a most difficult business to put through. If each Association or each individual let them know the money they required week by week, month by month, they would get the information they required without any trouble. Anybody who did not send it in time could be told that Government would not consider his application.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that he did not think that this question of checking the figures was as formidable a matter as had been thought.

Mr. MURPHY.—You have to check the expenditure to see if the figures are reasonable. That is where the scrutiny comes in.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he was in sympathy with what Mr. Abbott had said, but it was not a business-like proposition as it was put forward. It was not a case of the money they wanted, it was a case of how much they could get. It might be that there was only a limited amount to go round; without the figures asked for he did not see how any estimate could be arrived at; with them it could. It might be a long job or it might not, but the Government had asked for the information in this particular way.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris).—The whole point of these figures apparently is to prevent men being given more than is necessary.

Mr. MURPHY asked if it was possible if some instructions could be sent out as to the part of these forms that should be filled in at once. He had no objection himself to filling in the whole form; but he did not think it right that the planter should be forced to divulge private information even to the Secretary of his Association.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.—That will come later.

Mr. MURPHY.—On the contrary, it's down on the form and you have to supply it now.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroy) asked if the supply of help applied only to those who worked through the Exchange Banks. How did it affect the planter who did not deal with the Exchange Banks?

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a matter for the Government to settle.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—It is stated in the form.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think you ought to ask Government to suggest a form and that that form be sent by Government direct and not through the Secretary of this Association. That will get over the suggested evil of prying, which I am sure no one wants to do.

Mr. B. MALCOLM (Wynaad) said that this implied that the onus of approving the reliability of the security was going to be assumed by the Government. He took it that, in any case, the onus of proving this would be on the Banks and Agents supplying the money.

Mr. MURPHY.—I take it that we will make it a point to ask Government not to deal with Estates direct but with Banks and Agents.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES demurred as far as the Shevaroy was concerned, where they were in a peculiar position. In the Shevaroy there were 32 Planting interests subscribing to the Association. Twenty-nine of these were proprietary owners who would prefer to deal with Government and get their advances from Government direct.

Mr. MURPHY said that he saw no difficulty. Most of these private owners must bank somewhere. Besides they did business on a small scale and mostly sold in the country.

Mr. ABBOTT.—The scheme does not affect them at all.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON pointed out that the discussion was getting discursive. The first thing was to decide there and then whether they were going to give these figures or not. That ought to be settled at once.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER however, reverted to the point raised by Mr. Travers-Drapes and explained the case in which a Shevaroy planter had already been helped by an advance from Government, emphasising the rapidity with which this had been done.

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalai) agreed with Mr. Richardson that they were walking round in a circle. It would be impossible to get a move on until they had decided the question as to whether they were going to give the information asked for. In his opinion it was a case of Hobson's choice.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that he would like to say one word in regard to encumbrances on Estates and crops, if any. He took it that anyone was quite at liberty to write and say that he did not wish to disclose details of this nature until he required help; when he required help, he was quite prepared to put the details before Government.

Mr. MURPHY said that with reference to this, they did not want Government to wait until the help was urgently required. They wanted the help at once. They did not want Government to wait until their Agents said that they could not find any more money.

Mr. MALCOLM said that what the Government wanted was reliable information as to the security. Unless every man put this into his form, he did not see how Government was going to get the information asked for. Even if the information was supplied, it was not going to be of any use until it was thoroughly scrutinised. He would suggest, as an alternative plan, that Estates should send in their statements of weekly requirements, which statements should be passed by their Bankers and Agents upon whom the planter drew for money. These Bankers and Agents could guarantee these figures and the Government might accept them as the normal requirements of the Estate.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON quite agreed with Mr. Malcolm as to the method, it was quite a good method. But the first intention of Government was not to ascertain the reliability of the security, but the amount of money that they must find. The Government wanted to know first how much money they must put out as an ordinary business transaction and then the question of security came in; but they must first tell Government how much money they wanted.

Mr. MALCOLM.—The normal week's requirement of an Estate can be supplied by the Agents and Bankers with whom they do business. Surely they might supply this and Government ought to accept it.

The CHAIRMAN said that the only point was that Mr. Malcolm's suggestion did not take into consideration the question of supplies bought at Home. Very often these were nothing more than a book entry between the Firm at Home and the Estate out here, and this information would not be available with the Banks.

Mr. ABBOTT said that was covered by Mr. Malcolm's proposal.

Mr. C. MORRELL (West Coast) asked how was an ordinary working Superintendent to give figures which the Agents would not confirm.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that what he could not understand was the objection to give these figures, especially from Companies, because the figures were available in the Company's Reports at the end of the year. He really could see no objection to giving their total requirements to the end of the current year. The Government wanted to know how these Rs. 8 lakhs were arrived at, Mr. Knapp's letter was clear as to that.

Mr. MORRELL.—I don't see how a working Superintendent can be bound down to give figures which it is not in his power to do.

Mr. ABBOTT said that he was perfectly certain there was no mortgage on the Estate he was in charge of, but his Proprietor was at Home, and he could not say what the Proprietor had been up to in the last few months (laughter). If they wanted to know the encumbrances on an Estate, they must examine the title-deeds. In this case these were all at Home. If the information Mr. Richardson was asking for could be accepted in the simple form that he had referred to he would undertake to get it all within a week of getting back to Wynaad; but if they were to fill in forms, he knew that there would be trouble.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had filled in his forms and where he could not fill them in, he had referred the matter to his Proprietors.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Supposing a man had to raise money on the Estate and went to the ordinary channels for doing so, would they not ask if the crop was involved or the property?

Mr. ABBOTT.—They certainly would.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Having asked you, they would know where to look for proof.

Mr. MURPHY.—We are not asking for money for which we have not security at Home.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that all planters were not in the same position. The small man must be considered and it was much simpler to declare the indebtedness at the outset. It was possible that they would get their money in a week. He knew one gentleman who had already done so. They were only trying to meet every case. In putting the case before the Government he said that if Government took care of the small Proprietor the big concerns would not suffer nor would the industry suffer. All they were talking about depended on these forms. Could any one devise a form that would suit every case. He would not say that it was an ideal form for the big Company, but they had tried to point out its use in every case. It might be in the case of those on whose behalf Mr. Ainsworth was speaking, who wished to get their assistance from the Exchange Banks that they would prefer to give their information in the form suggested by Mr. Malcolm. On the other hand those who wished to deal with Government direct should give their requirements on the form under discussion. In that case they would have to give their security if they hoped to get assistance. There was one point in connection with the security that had been lost sight of and that was that it ensured asking for as much as they wanted instead of asking for more than they wanted in the hope of getting what they wanted.

Mr. MALCOLM said that his suggestion covered that point. The amount of a man's requirements would come through his agents who would see to it that the correct figure was stated.

After some desultory discussion the Chairman said that the only lines that they had to go on were those laid down in the forms that had been so severely criticised and those given in Sir Bernard Hunter's letter, namely, that each Estate should be called on by the Committee to furnish estimate with full details. These should be checked and passed by the Estates Visiting Agent and they would then be sent to a Committee whose duty it would be to cut down these estimates.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Has every Estate a Visiting Agent ?

The CHAIRMAN.—Sir Bernard Hunter thinks that might easily be arranged.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Then we go in for the Co-operative business after that ?

The CHAIRMAN.—I have said nothing about it.

Mr. ABBOTT.—But it has been alluded to.

Mr. DANDISON.—No one on the Nilgiris objects to the form. There was only one case of the form not being filled in and that was because financial assistance was not required.

Mr. RICHARDSON.—I think it most necessary that the form should be filled in whether you want assistance or not. The Government wants to estimate the amount of money involved. If the time comes when the situation becomes so bad that the money will have to be divided proportionately, they will then be in a position to do so.

Mr. AINSWORTH asked if it had struck anyone how this assistance was to be given. Sir Bernard Hunter, for instance, had a scheme of a Co-operative Society of the whole body of planters.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that was a matter that Government had not considered yet or discussed until they had the necessary figures. When these figures were supplied and the Conference was held, it would go into the question of how this help was going to be given.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Unfortunately there were two sides to the question, the borrower's side and the lender's side. We can decide how we ought to get the money, but there is their point of view also to be considered.

Mr. AINSWORTH said that he thought the stage had arrived at which they ought to re-affirm the Madras Resolution.

Mr. MCARTHUR (Central Travancore).—Did Government call for these figures after the Madras Resolution ?

Mr. AINSWORTH gave notice of the following Resolution.—

“That this Meeting urges the Government to adopt the third Resolution passed at the Madras Finance Meeting reading that Government should make advances to the Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills and further requests Government to arrange for financial assistance for such Estates as do not desire to receive that assistance through the Banks.”



Mr. MALCOLM.—I give notice of the following Resolution:

“That in order to supply the information required by Government Estates should send in the statements of their working requirements, which statements may be approved and revised by the Banks and Agents through which they have normally drawn their funds.”

Mr. RICHARDSON said that with reference to this he would like to give notice of an Amendment. In doing so he would like to point out that many of the forms had already come in, and, as far as his Association was concerned, they would have all in their hands within the next ten days. They were perfectly welcome if they wished to have these forms revised by agents and bankers. It was a great pity he thought that there should be any further delay. He would propose that “the form be adopted as it stands.”

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON asked for some ruling as to whether the forms should be filled in whether one wanted assistance or not.

The Chairman said that there was no compulsion to fill in the form. He thought that in some cases it would be desirable to fill in the form and make a statement to say that no help was required. A certain amount of information was required to enable Government to know what to do if at any future time they were again in the same position.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.—That is quite a sound idea.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—With reference to the Resolution of which notice was given by Mr. Ainsworth, I would ask the Meeting seriously to consider whether it is worth while going on with that matter in view of the letter of the Madras Government in which Resolution 3 of the Madras Finance Meeting is specifically mentioned. This is what Government said.—“There remains the proposal that Government might make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate bills. In respect to this the U. P. A. S. I. has already been informed that the Government must wait for the further detailed information which is being collected as to the amount, extent and nature of the financial aid which may be required.” In view of these letters I do not see that we can do any good in reaffirming this Resolution.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.—These forms are the Government's reply to this Resolution.

Mr. MURPHY.—In any case we may decide what we are going to bring forward at the Conference.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—Seeing that Government have also got the proposal of a Co-operative Society before them is my principal reason for stating that this Meeting should re-affirm this resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. Barber.—We have not discussed this question of the Co-operative Society, I don't think we will love it awfully when we discuss it. As a matter of fact, we should not discuss that letter at all.

Mr. AINSWORTH.—In that case the matter will probably be settled over our heads.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—If we are going to re-affirm the Resolution passed at Madras, we bind ourselves to that Resolution so that we cannot consider any Resolution put forward at the Conference. I think that that would be a great mistake.

After some further discussion, the Committee adjourned for the day.

*Second day, Tuesday, 21st August, 1917.*

**COMMITTEE B (AGRICULTURAL MATTERS).**

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON presided at the Meeting of the Committee B and the members present were: Mr. J. S. Nicolls (Chairman, U.P.A.S.I.), the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber and Messrs. C. E. Abbott, R. D. Anstead, A. S. Dandison, C. Fraser, R. Lescher, C. Lake, J. J. Murphy, H. L. Pinches, P. G. Tipping, G. A. D. Stuart, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture and Mr. F. Norton (Secretary), Dr. Hope and Mr. R. Keith (Representative of Messrs. Parry & Co.) were present as visitors. Mr. F. Hannington, I.C.S., was also present.

The President (Mr. RICHARDSON) in opening the Proceedings said:—The first item that we have to discuss is the matter of fertilisers. Has any gentleman anything to say to start the subject?

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD.—As I told you on Sunday, the Indian Tea Association is sending up proposals for legislation with regard to fertilisers to be considered by the Board of Agriculture, and Dr. Hope, who was the moving spirit in the matter, is present at the Meeting and I trust he will enlighten us as to what has been done about the proposal.

Dr. HOPE said that he had come to Bangalore at very short notice and in a very informal capacity to find out whether any support would be forthcoming from the Planting Community of Southern India to the proposal the Indian Tea Association was making to the Board of Agriculture, through the Government of Assam. The proposal of the Indian Tea Association was, that there should be legislation with regard to fertilisers. How the proposal had come to be made was briefly as follows:—The Indian Tea Association had a number of smaller bodies affiliated to it and from one of these the proposal had emanated. It was last year that the idea was brought up and during the last two years, as a result of the War, very great changes had taken place in the *personnel* of manure suppliers in Calcutta and many of the old suppliers were not now in business. Manure from Home was also not obtainable now and demand from Estates for indigenous manure was increasing very rapidly. Accordingly, the present, in the opinion of the Tea Association, was a fitting time for introducing legislation of the kind desired. The speaker was instructed to draw up a memorandum of the kind drawn up for the Board of Agriculture in 1907 by Dr. Mann and Dr. Lehman. The contents of those documents were probably known to many of those present. It was the opinion of Dr. Mann that there existed no need for legislation with regard to manures, while on the other hand Dr. Lehman was for having an Act. Accordingly, in 1907, the Agricultural Board dropped the matter, but the Tea Association had taken it up now. The speaker was working in connection with it and as yet all the facts connected with the proposed legislation had not been placed by him before the Tea Association for transmission to the Assam Government. The matter however had been very considerably enquired into and a draft bill had been drawn up by the speaker as also the Memorandum referred to.

The speaker next read portions of the Memorandum that he had prepared in which he urged the Indian Tea Association to press for legislation with regard to fertilisers, since these were beginning to be adulterated and manure dealers also indulged in misrepresentations. To introduce legislation would really lead to indigenous manures being much sought after, which, until a few years ago, had not been the case. Legislation would thus really improve the position of manure trade in India and legislation might be introduced on lines such as these: (1) The appointment of a European Licensing Officer from whom manure merchants should hold a license for carrying on their business. (2) Compelling manure manufacturers to specify the ingredients of their fertiliser and (3) the making it criminal to indulge in misrepresentations with regard to the composition of manures.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) asked if the proposed Act was to be applicable to the whole of India.

Dr. HOPE.—Yes, the idea is that the Act should cover the whole of India.

Mr. HAYWARD (South Mysore).—Will the Act cover the Native States as well?

Dr. HOPE.—That is beyond me to say.

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD said:—We are now getting fair and square treatment from most manure merchants in Southern India. But there was lately a case of an artificial manure being placed on the market as basic slag a well recognised standard fertiliser, which was not basic slag at all, but a mixture of bone meal and mineral phosphates. This is a case of misrepresentation—and there is no way at present of preventing such a thing. Legislation of the kind outlined by Dr. Hope is necessary. There is also the fact that the Indian ryot is learning to use fertilisers and this is sure to lead to a number of proprietary fertilisers coming into existence and it is necessary to have some control over the manure merchants. Otherwise, there will be misleading specifications and other undesirable practices.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I. C. S. (Director of Agriculture) said:—I would certainly welcome legislation of this kind from the point of view of the ryot. The Madras ryot is already taking to the use of artificial manure, especially for paddy, and before long any amount of fertilisers are sure to be on the market. Thus any legislation undertaken should make it incumbent on the sellers to give a description of the article they were selling. There are Firms now which will not specify the composition of their manures. There is of course difficulty in special legislation with regard to oil-cakes. I shall be attending next December the Meeting of the Agricultural Board and shall see what can be done with regard to the special legislation.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—I think very few people buy oil-cakes in the villages. Legislation might deal with large distributors of oil cakes.

Mr. J. J. MURPHY at this stage gave notice of his intention to move at the General Meeting a Resolution in favour of introducing legislation with regard to fertilisers, to read as follows:—That the efforts of the Indian Tea Association to have a Fertiliser Act brought into law be supported by this Association.

Mr. R. KEITH (Representative of Messrs. Parry & Co.) next addressed the Meeting with the permission of the President. He said that at present there were only the planters who bought fertilisers in large quantities, what the Indian ryots purchased being very little. The planters, of course, knew well what they were paying for and in the interests of planters, therefore, it was unnecessary to have any legislation of the kind contemplated. He was indeed very sorry there had been a case of misrepresentation on the part of a respectable South Indian Firm dealing in fertilisers but such an incident was not likely to occur again. It was the opinion of the speaker that no legislation was necessary now, though ultimately legislation of the kind contemplated might become necessary. However it was rather hard on merchants dealing in artificial manures to require them to publish the composition of their wares. At the same time the speaker approved of licensing manure manufacturers.

In winding up the discussion on the subject Mr. Richardson said :— We are very much indebted to Dr. Hope for coming here and opening a very interesting subject for us to consider. I am very glad indeed that Mr. Murphy is going to bring forward a Resolution in support of the Indian Tea Association's proposal at the General Meeting. I also thank Messrs. Parry & Co.'s representative for the remarks he has made. I think from what he said and from what Dr. Hope said, there is necessity for legislation of some sort.

### **Pests and Diseases.**

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., next spoke on this subject. He said :— Some time ago an Insects Pest and Diseases Act was drafted for Madras and forwarded to the Government of India. The draft had now come back with criticisms and suggestions and there was going to be further discussion of it. One of the criticisms made by the Government of India was that insect pests could be only combated by employing a large staff. Legislation in this direction could do little and so there was the suggestion that everything about insect pests should be dropped from the Draft Bill. True, the control of insect pests was a difficult matter. Excepting those pests which attack Cambodia cotton it did not seem possible to deal with any other pests by legislation. He asked for suggestions as to any other insect pests which might be dealt with under the Act.

Messrs. LAKE and HAYWARD pointed out that something could be done by means of legislation where the coffee-borer was concerned and also with regard to the orange-borer. These two pests could be included in any Act that might be contemplated.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT mentioned that in Ceylon heavy penalties were inflicted for introducing castor on Tea Estates in connection with the control of shot hole borer. Mr. Abbott went on to say that the Wynaad Planters' Association was interested in the Pests Act and discussed the subject a few years ago with Mr. D. T. Chadwick, I.C.S. The understanding then arrived at was, that the Act if passed into law would be only enforced in planting districts if the planters asked for its enforcement.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S.—There was no such specific provision in the Act, but Government could prescribe rules as to how the Act was to be put in motion. It was quite certain that the Government would consult the U. P. A. S. I. before enforcing the Act in a planting district.

Mr. F. HANNYNGTON, I. C. S., (Commissioner of Coorg).—Is there any provision in the draft Bill for compulsory notification of any pest?

Mr. STUART.—None; but the Act provides for inspecting officers.

This concluded the discussion on the subject.

### **Re-organization of Scientific Department and Experiment Stations.**

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., referring to this subject said that the re-organization scheme was going on, perhaps rather slowly from the point of view of the planters. The scheme had no doubt been sanctioned by the Government of India, who had also provided funds but the sanction of the Secretary of State had yet to be received. The wheels of the machinery had been already set moving and a certain amount of money had been sanctioned to be spent this year on Planting stations. In some cases the stations were in Native States and the speaker was in correspondence with the Durbars concerned with regard to the buildings. He would be glad if, while at Bangalore, he could get the figures and the names of people who would be willing to put up buildings on contract for Government. The Government had rather understood that owing to the War and financial difficulties the U. P. A. would like the whole matter postponed.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore).—We want the scheme to be put through soon and we shall put this matter up at the open Meeting.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., continuing.—Then there was the question of the head-quarters of the Mycologist, when we get him. Peer-made was originally suggested, but he understood that the place was not quite suitable. The suggestion had been made later that Coimbatore might be selected temporarily. If this were done, the difficulty with regard to laboratory would be got over and the speaker personally would like Coimbatore; though the Mycologist's head-quarters might be located at Coonoor. There were other matters also, such as the actual term of leases to be given for the four agricultural stations, etc., which the speaker wanted to discuss but perhaps these subjects had better be threshed out by a smaller Committee.

Mr. RICHARDSON.—I personally think that Mr. Stuart's suggestion for making Coimbatore the head-quarters a very sound one. It would save us money and at the same time would give the Mycologist time to look about for a suitable place himself.

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais).—I quite agree and shall move a Resolution as follows at the open Meeting:

“That in the opinion of this Association the initial head-quarters of the Mycologist for the Planting Districts should be at Coimbatore to afford him facilities to conduct his work to the best advantage until such time as the best site for a permanent station has been decided upon.”

A Sub-Committee was then appointed on the motion of Mr. C. E. Abbott, seconded by Mr. C. Fraser to discuss with Mr. G. A. D. Stuart the various details connected with the experiment stations. The following were appointed to the Sub-Committee: Messrs. R. D. Anstead, P. G. Tipping and J. A. Richardson.

### **Appointment of a Mycologist for Rubber Industry.**

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam) next gave notice of his intention to move a Resolution at the General Meeting to the effect that the U. P. A. S. I. request Government to appoint a Mycologist specially for rubber, the rubber planters bearing the expenses.

Mr. MURPHY explained that he wanted the U. P. A. S. I. to ask for the appointment because the Mundakayam Planters' Association was not an incorporated body. The following is the exact wording of the Resolution: "(1) That Government be asked through the U. P. A. S. I. if they will engage a Mycologist for the study of rubber diseases in South India, salary and other expenses being met by the rubber acreage in South India and that the support of the other Associations be asked to the Resolution.

(2) That in the event of other Rubber Associations not approving of the scheme, the U. P. A. S. I. be asked if they will engage a Mycologist for Mundakayam only at that district's expense."

### **Improvement of the Quality of Tea.**

Mr. J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS (Nilgiris) next spoke about limiting the production of tea at present. He said that the subject he was going to speak about was put down in the Agenda as "Improvement of the quality of Tea." This was not correct because there was nothing wrong with the quality of the tea now produced which was of quite an excellent kind. What he was to speak about was the quantity of tea now being produced. The same quantity as in pre-War times was being produced while there was unfortunately no market for it. He would suggest, therefore, a reduced production of tea. One means of doing this would be by plucking over a restricted area at present. But the difficulty here was that the neglected area could not afterwards be availed of for plucking. There was another thing that could be done, namely, to pluck all over the Estate but pluck only higher grades of tea. The latter suggestion commended itself to the speaker, and, if carried out, would result in the reduction of the quantity of tea produced. As a temporary measure, plucking fine would certainly meet the present situation. There were also two other suggestions that the speaker wanted to make. One was that the planters should take up Army Contracts for tea in such a manner that the contracts were evenly distributed among them. In Northern India one or two individual planters in one year managed to secure large tea contracts for the Army and this fact having been brought to Government's notice, the contracts were at once split up and distributed amongst various planters. It would be well if South Indian Planters also went in for Army Contracts and it was so arranged that no one planter secured the entire monopoly. Lastly, the speaker wanted the local markets to be more assiduously exploited. Among the Indian population there remained an immense market for tea which had yet to be tapped. It would be good if a portion of the Tea Cess were brought down to Southern India and utilised for purposes of advertisement. What was being done at present in this direction could be considerably and profitably extended.

Mr. MCARTHUR (Central Travancore).—Since there are arrangements being made by Government to give us freight, I do not think there will be any necessity to reduce our crop.

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais) was of opinion that plucking fine was not a feasible thing.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore).—We know that Ceylon has agreed to reduce its production now by 25 per cent. But whether South Indian Planters would be required to do the same by Government, I do not know. Mr. Knapp knows nothing about reducing the crop and we have no idea for what purpose Government asked for the figures that they have done.

The further discussion of the subject was dropped and the Meeting terminated.

*Second day, Tuesday, 21st August, 1917.*

**C. COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.**

*Present:*

*Chairman:* Mr. B. MALCOLM.

Mr. R. AINSWORTH.  
" C. FRASER.  
" C. R. T. CONGREVE.  
" J. B. COOK.  
" S. H. DENNIS.  
" C. H. GODFREY.  
" C. J. HAYWARD.

Mr. R. LESCHER.  
" H. L. PINCHES.  
" E. L. MAHON.  
" A. S. DANDISON.  
" A. J. WRIGHT.  
" F. M. HAMILTON.

**(a) Export Duty on Tea.**

The CHAIRMAN enquired whether any Association had a special Resolution to offer.

Mr. J. B. COOK (South Travancore) remarked that the double duty levied by the British and Travancore Governments and subsequently withdrawn had not so far resulted in the promised refunds. Others had received their refunds, but not in Travancore. The delay since November last was remarkable, but he did not wish to move anything in the form of a Resolution. In reply to the Chairman Mr. Cook said there had been no refusal to make a refund.

The matter was recorded only as signifying a matter of Government delay.

**(b) Tea Imports into India.**

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) said in moving the following Resolution:—

“That in view of the large quantities of tea from other countries now being sold in India, to the detriment of the Indian Tea Industry, this Association urges upon Government the necessity in Imperial interests of increasing the duty to 4 annas per lb., on all imported teas, for the duration of the War.”

Mr. DANDISON, in moving a Resolution asking Government to place a duty of 4 annas per lb. on all outside teas, said that as the Colombo Market was closed and shipping not available, Indian planters were forced to sell locally to carry on their Estates. It seemed unfair that having worked up a local market by their own energies and by the energies of the Tea Cess Committee, others who had done nothing to help should reap the benefit. He considered it was not to the national interest that outside teas be allowed into India at the present time, and considered that Indian planters were justified in asking that there might be no delay in imposing a duty of 4 annas per lb.

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) seconded the Resolution.



Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) said he had been instructed to move an amendment. Their ideas ran in common more or less on this subject, but there was need of a slight alteration to the Resolution in the light of the present *ad valorem* import duty of 7½ per cent. on black tea at 12 annas a lb. and 10 per cent. on tea at 11 annas a lb. He thought they should ask Government for total prohibition on all outside teas. He therefore proposed the following Amendment:—

“That the Government be respectfully requested to take the necessary steps to prevent the importing of all outside tea into India, as the increasing Indian consumption will afford some measure of relief in the position caused by War conditions and the present restriction of exports.”

That would get them away from any import duty and leave everything in the hands of Government. If they did not want to stop the import of tea they can have it imported and exported in bond as in Ceylon. There was a great trade in green tea with Afghanistan. It seemed as if Ceylon was going to use India as a dumping ground for tea. The matter had assumed alarming proportions and the figures had appreciably jumped.

Mr. COOK remarked that the statistics quoted included shipments to Bombay and re-exports to Karachi.

Mr. DANDISON.—My Resolution and Mr. Fraser's Amendment really come to the same thing. It amounted to practical prohibition. We shall be merely placing ourselves on the same footing as Ceylon, having regard to the duty on Indian tea.

Mr. FRASER.—It is as well to be unanimous.

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—If we ask Government for total prohibition we shall be asking them to give up a certain revenue. It would be far better to ask for this duty. We shall get our own ends and they will get the revenue. I am therefore in favour of the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—Will we be doing right in asking for total prohibition.

Mr. DANDISON:—The Resolution meets the case. If we accept Mr. Fraser's Amendment we shall be on the same footing as Ceylon.

Mr. COOK.—I agree with the proposed Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Fraser, do you wish to press your Amendment?

Mr. FRASER.—I am asked not to mention an import duty for fear of the obvious retort. My best plan seems to be to withdraw my amendment and second the Nilgiri Delegate.

Mr. DANDISON modified his Resolution to read that the duty on all imported tea be increased to 4 annas a lb.

Mr. FRASER.—I find now that under my instructions I cannot withdraw the Amendment. The Amendment was therefore formally seconded and lost.

Mr. DANDISON's Resolution was then carried with one dissentient.

**(c) Ceylon Tea Brokers' Association's Action in restricting the Sale of South Indian Tea on the Colombo Market.**

Mr. R. LESCHER (West Coast) said he had been asked to raise this matter, not that any effect could be produced on the action in question for the Ceylon people had a perfect right to keep their market. It was just done to show the great necessity of having a market of their own. It would be an added argument for the Cochin harbour. They might therefore ask Government to hurry on the construction of this harbour as much as possible. Ceylon was taking only those marks of tea which is sold in their market.

The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Pinches will bring it up.

**(d) Imperial Preference for the Indian Tea Trade with Australia.**

Mr. DANDISON said Mr. Barber had brought this matter up. War conditions might alter things. He read the following Resolution:—

“That this Association re-affirms its adherence to an Imperial Preferential Tariff for both British grown tea and coffee, particularly at this crisis when the dominions and the Mother Country are uniting in the common cause and recommends that the Government of India be asked to agree to and negotiate with the Secretary of State for the following as regards coffee:—

- (1) To permit export of 1917-18 crop to the United Kingdom.
- (2) The total prohibition of other than British grown coffee into India, East Africa, Aden, Mesopotamia including Persia.
- (3) To prohibit the export of all coffee from the United Kingdom to countries East of Port Said.
- (4) Also for the prohibition of import of coffee other than British grown coffee into Australia, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and South Africa.

As a general Resolution it was suggested that coffee might be included, to which Messrs. E. L. Mahon (Coorg) and the proposer agreed. Mr. Mahon seconded the motion and it was agreed between them to recast the Resolution so as to include coffee.

**(e) Form of Contract for Sale of Coffee in India.**

Mr. C. H. GODFREY (North Mysore) proposed, reserving the right to speak at length in open Meeting:—

“That the U. P. A. S. I. do take the necessary steps to have a Legal Form of Contract for use in ‘Forward Sales’ of coffee in India drawn up—the draft of same to be submitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Mahon, Congreve, and Godfrey and to all curers—with a view to safe-guarding the interests of producers and buyers.”

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. MAHON (Coorg) referred to the existing Form of Contract in Coorg and said he had telegraphed for a copy.

Mr. V. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroy) said his Association used a Form which had been unanimously adopted although no legal opinion had been taken on its validity. It was in two forms A and B. On the Shevaroy they dealt, somewhat uniquely perhaps, directly at the door. The Chetty buyers examined samples and signed Form A on completing his contract to buy. It was in the form of a letter of agreement really reciting that having seen the coffee in the seller's store he was satisfied that it met his demands and that he was prepared to pay so much per cwt. or bushel, by weight or measurement as may be arranged, taking delivery at the garden and he also agrees to remove it within a given period suitable to the convenience of both sides and to forfeit his earnest deposit of 10 per cent. on the total purchase price in default. Form B was written by the seller agreeing to sell on the conditions given in Form A. It is all done on a one-anna stamp, provided the money advanced was over Rs. 20, otherwise 8 annas. These forms have not been placed before a Solicitor for legal approval, but being translated in the vernacular has been found to be acceptable.

Mr. MAHON.—Is this coffee in parchment or cherry?

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES.—Both, but Native coffee only, of course.

Mr. GODFREY.—We want a form of sale contract on the West Coast. I mean to cover forward sales in this country.

Mr. HAMILTON seconded the Resolution which was then accepted.

**(f) Fixing by Government of a Minimum Rate of Sale for Havre Standard Coffee in India.**

Mr. MAHON (Coorg).—This is hardly advisable. It would have the effect of destroying competition. South Mysore brought it up. I think we should take it out.

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—Government will not do it.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroy).—At present dealers make use of every possible rumour. A case in point was lately when at the beginning of a good season we were offered Rs. 11 to Rs. 12 a bushel, but it suddenly dropped to Rs. 7-8 on the strength of bazaar rumours. They have the most extraordinary facilities for obtaining information.

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE (Anamalais).—We are asking Government to interfere with fair competition.

The CHAIRMAN.—Does any gentleman wish to press a Resolution?

After some little discussion with Messrs. Hamilton and Travers-Drapes it was decided to leave the matter over for withdrawal in General Meeting.

**(g) Military Coffee Ration.**

Mr. HAMILTON said Mr. C. Lake (South Mysore) intended moving the following Resolution:—

“That the Government of India be approached with a view to their purchasing the stock of coffee now remaining in the country if tonnage is not available.”

He stated reasons why Government should buy coffee. It was very desirable that they should get rid of old stocks and rather better than by having tonnage.

Mr. MAHON (Coorg) seconded the proposal.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais).—There are 1,744 tons of coffee still left in the country.

#### (h) **Imperial Preference for the Indian Coffee Trade**

Mr. MAHON (Coorg) moved :—

“That the Australian Commonwealth be approached to extend the same preference for British grown coffee over Foreign coffee, as they have, in the case of British tea.”

Mr. DANDISON (Nilgiris) seconded the motion and promised to speak of it in open Meeting.

#### (i) **Prohibition of Coffee Export to United Kingdom.**

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) moved the following Resolution.

“That this Association draw the attention of the Madras Government to the fact that out of the quantity of 6,150 tons of coffee licensed for entry into the United Kingdom space has been provided for 2,850 only; that to all intents and purposes a complete embargo on coffee shipment exists at present and requests Government to arrange with the Shipping Controller for space for the balance of last year's crop up to the licensed quantity, and that application be made for a further license to import the whole or part of this year's crop.”

He added that it was necessary to explain how much had been shipped and approximately how much remained in the country awaiting shipment. They required shipping for all that before next year's crop was ready; but as to the latter there had better be a separate Resolution.

Mr. MAHON seconded the Resolution. In reply to Mr. Hamilton explained that his figures were from the European Coast Coffee Curers through the U. P. A.

Mr. HAMILTON (South Mysore) suggested that coffee on the Estates might be added. It was decided to fix the nearest possible figures in open Meeting.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPE (Shevaroy) said it might interest delegates to know that there was still quite a lot of parchment coffee unsold on the Shevaroy, between 15 and 30 tons.

The Resolution was approved.

#### (k) **Land Tenure and Title-deeds in Mysore.**

Mr. HAMILTON (South Mysore) proposed the following Resolution which was seconded by Mr. Godfrey :—

That this Association do strongly support the Mysore Coffee Planters in their representations to the Mysore Durbar on.—

(1) The hardships of the Durbar's ruling in the question of granting lands on permanent tenure.

- (2) The difficulties of getting title-deeds for lands purchased from Indian holders.
- (3) The hardship of paying back assessment in *one* sum at 8 annas per acre per annum on lands originally granted on 30 years' tenure which are now wanted on permanent tenure."

Mr. HAMILTON said that in the beginning when Mysore was given to the Ruling Family it was possible to purchase land at Re. 1 or Re. 1-8 per acre on a 30 years' tenure and when desired to convert this tenure into permanent tenure by payment of a back assessment of 8 annas an acre and this system continued until two years ago. But last year at the Representative Assembly the Dewan held that this policy was wrong and that in future the Mysore Government were not going to continue it. And a Government Order has been issued on the subject. It meant a hardship owing to the absence of fixity of tenure and proper title-deeds for such matters as mortgages. The back assessment was also a great bother. They had not long ago been asked to await the re-survey, but no work has been done in this direction for two years. It is also explained that the Government are not keen on granting permanent title, because of the great mineral resources of the land. It is now 35 years since the Durbar took over Mysore and if it was desired to convert the 30 years' tenure into permanent tenure it meant a payment of 8 annas per acre per annum for 35 years. The speaker had interviewed the Dewan on the subject and he was inclined to accept a proposal to pay Rs. 2 per acre for 30 years to secure the permanent tenure. This is what Mr. Hamilton proposed to bring up and he would be glad if the North Mysore Delegate would second the Resolution. All they required was the moral support of the U. P. A. S. I., because they themselves in Mysore took the initiative.

In reply to Mr. Barber Mr. Hamilton added that when they asked for land on permanent tenure the authorities were unwilling to alter their system at Re. 1 per acre but asked for all the back assessment, and they were justified in refusing as the ruling was that they must pay the back tax of 8 annas. Mysore with its mineral and other rights had no right to alienate the land. They had some difficulty in Bengal as a result of giving permanent tenure and thereby alienating all their rights. They could not alter their permanent tenure. The Mysore Government are willing to carry out their original obligations, but this cannot apply to newly acquired land. That is to say it was impossible to buy land right away on permanent tenure.

### **The Indian Defence Force.**

As Mr. Waddington was not present this matter was adjourned.

*Third day, Wednesday, 2nd August, 1917.*

(MORNING SESSION.)

### SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS.

The Proceedings were in open Meeting at the forenoon session to-day, when Scientific papers were read and discussed.

#### **Abnormal Leaf-fall of Rubber.**

Mr. W. McRAE, the Government Mycologist, who last year read an interesting paper on the then discovered causes of the abnormal leaf-fall of Hevea rubber, was able, owing to more recent work in the same direction, to add to the information already gained on this subject in the following notes, which he read to the Meeting:—

At the last Annual Meeting I had the pleasure of reading a note about the damage done to Hevea rubber trees by a fungus named *Phytophthora*, and at a subsequent Meeting of the Rubber-growers' Association, I proposed that an experiment should be tried on a sufficiently large scale to test the suggestions I had made for controlling the fungus. I suggested it should be done on blocks of 100 acres in several places and the managers of four Estates very kindly offered to make the experiment. The object of the experiment was to decrease the growth of the fungus and to reduce the amount of abnormal leaf-fall. The work was done under the supervision and control of the Managers of the Estates and consisted in removing dead branches and fruits and in burning and burying them. The dead branches were cut off between February and April, when the new leaves had developed, and made the living and dead branches easily distinguishable, and they were burned on the ground. The leaves and charred remains were swept up and buried. During May, when the fruits were rather more than half grown, they were cut off and buried.

The idea underlying the former operation was to destroy the *mycelium* of the fungus that lives through the dry weather at the junction between the dead and living parts of the branches that have partially died back, owing to the attack of the fungus in the previous growing season; while that underlying the second operation was to remove the fruits which, during the early part of the monsoon, are the great breeding centres for the multiplication of the spores.

On each of the four Estates two plots were chosen of approximately equal size, of the same age, of similar growth and under as near by as possible similar conditions. On one plot the operations just described were carried out and on the other nothing was done. The latter was to be used as a check-plot to test the difference between the two. In only one case was the work carried out on 100 acres. On the other three Estates, for various reasons, chiefly to do with the shortage of labour at the time the fruits had to be taken off, the work was done on about half that area. The actual acreages of the experimental plots

in each case were Estate A 105 acres, B 50, C 61 and D 60. Mr. Anstead and I visited the Estates during April and saw the work in progress and again during the last week or two to see the result. I shall briefly give you the record of each.

On Estate A the experiment plot consisted of 105 acres of 1990, planting. The removal of dead branches was begun on 12th February and the removal of fruits was practically finished by the end of May. During June some work was done in finishing off and cleaning up. Most of the branches had been removed and also most of the fruits. Here and there an occasional dead branch and a few fruits had been left on the trees, chiefly on the upper branches, where they were difficult to get at. The work was as well done as it ever could be under estate conditions. We walked through both plots to get a general idea of the difference and came to the conclusion that the experiment plot had less leaf-fall. We then took a diagonal line across each plot and a line at right angles to it and examined the trees individually. In the experiment plot we examined 564 trees and found 36 were diseased or 6 per cent. and in the check-plot we examined 472 trees and found 282 diseased or 60 per cent. Where fruits had been inadvertently left on the experiment-plot, they were as a rule healthy, whereas on the check-plot most of the fruit was rotten. The Manager, writing on the 10th instant, when leaf-fall had more fully developed, says that the difference between the two plots was then very much more marked than when we were there.

On Estate B, the experiment plot consisted of 50 acres of 1896, planting with 120 trees to the acre. The removal of dead branches had been done fairly well, but there were more left on the trees than I had hoped. The removal of the fruits was begun rather late and the work was not complete when the monsoon broke. Thus this experiment could only demonstrate the difference that taking off dead branches would make. Leaf-fall was severe this year and a considerable amount of leaf was coming down when we were there on the 25th and 26th July. Most of the fruits on both plots were rotten. The leaf-fall on the experiment plot was less than on the check-plot, but the difference was too small to be really significant.

On Estate C, the experiment plot consisted of 61 acres, divided into two plots of 30 acres each. On the whole 61 acres the dead branches were removed thoroughly in two rounds, one in March and the other in April. In May the fruits were removed thoroughly from 30 acres and only partially from the other 30. The amount of leaf-fall was distinctly less in the 30 acres of the experiment plot that had been done well, and a little less in the other 30 acres, compared with the leaf-fall in the check-plot.

On Estate D the experimental plot consisted of 60 acres, 40 of 1906 planting and 20 of 1907 planting. The removal of both branches and fruits had been done well. Leaf-fall on the Estate had not reached its height. On the 11th instant when we saw it there was less leaf-fall on the experiment plot. The final result, however, ought to be recorded later in the year.

Our examination of the plots must be considered as preliminary. Abnormal leaf-fall this year began rather later than usual, owing to the long continued drought and the lightness of the monsoon for some time, so that the experiment was not complete when we saw the plots

last. All that can be said now is that on the whole where the removal of branches and fruits had been done thoroughly, there is promise that the abnormal leaf-fall will be very much reduced. Later on I shall visit the plots again and get the final results.

		RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	
Cost	{ Estate A...	2,060	9	10	or	19	10	per acre.
	" B...	795	6	0	"	15	14	"
	" C...	583	4	6	"	9	8	"
	" D...	1,181	3	0	"	19	11	"

At the conclusion of this paper, Mr. J. J. Murphy asked Mr. McRae if he had seen any signs of the fungus in the jungle around.

Mr. McRAE replied that the work and the time at his disposal when making these investigations allowed him very few opportunities of visiting the jungles.

Mr. MURPHY supposed that the fungus came in from the jungle.

Mr. McRAE thought that this might be the case. The rubber in South India was all grown from seed and it could not have been caused by infected seed, because the disease was never noticed in nurseries.

Mr. ANSTEAD pointed out that though Mr. McRae and he had a mass of information available on the subject, there was an immense amount still to be done, when they had a lot of other things also to do. It would take one man all his time to work out this problem. If the rubber planters succeeded in getting a Mycologist, one of the lines of work which he would have to take up would be to examine the jungle fruits and trees. If they thought over the subject they would begin to realise what an enormous amount of work this would entail. Neither Mr. McRae nor he could spare the time for this in the limited period of their tours.

### **Treatment of Fungoid Diseases on Estates.**

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD, M.A., Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, then read the following Paper on the above subject:—

I have been much struck by the contrast between different Planting Districts of Southern India in the way in which they attack the problem of fungoid pests. In some districts, and on some estates, a great deal of careful attention is paid to this problem, and a considerable amount of money is spent on it; while in others hardly anything is done, and what little attempt is made to control diseases is made in a half-hearted manner and at a minimum of expenditure.

I do not think that the importance of fungoid pests is sufficiently realised, or the latter attitude would not be so often adopted. The loss of a few tea bushes, or a rubber tree or two, may not appear at first sight of any great importance, but I will try and show you just what it means.

Take the case of young tea attacked, as it so often is, by a root disease; I was informed by a tea planter whose estate I was inspecting a short time ago, that each tea bush when three years old had cost only two annas; that was the cost of putting it there when the value of the land, clearing, seed, planting, weeding, etc., were all reckoned



up. This is not the actual value of a bush, perhaps, because it also has a capital value as an asset; but we will accept this figure as being one of actual value. This same planter had a bad attack of root disease in his three-year-old clearings and was losing bushes up to 10 per cent. The bushes were planted 4 by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 3,000 to the acre so the loss was 300 bushes per acre. The value of these is on our basis of 2 annas per plant Rs. 37-8. How many planters would be willing to spend this sum per acre on tackling the problem of root disease? Yet it would obviously pay to do so could the bushes be saved, or even a proportion of them, for remember that the dead plants have to be replaced which will take another three years and cost say one anna each this time, or Rs. 18-12 per acre, and at the end of six years no return has been got from this total expenditure of Rs. 56-4 per acre.

Let us next take the case of coffee attacked by black rot. Last year an interesting experiment was carried out in Coorg to try and ascertain the actual loss of crop caused by this disease. I will not here go into details of the experiment, suffice it to say that a few trees had mats spread under them, some were sprayed and some were left alone, and the berries which fell off were picked up daily and counted and weighed, and the crop which matured on each group of trees was picked and weighed separately. The result was that we found that in a year when the disease was particularly light half a cwt. of crop per acre was destroyed by the fungus and could be saved by spraying. This may safely be put at Rs. 25 an acre, yet how many coffee planters are willing to spend that amount on preventive measures?

When we turn to rubber we have a still more valuable asset in each tree. What is the value of a full-grown rubber tree as it stands in the field ready to tap? I have recently seen it put at Rs. 15. However, say an acre containing 120 trees cost £30 to bring into bearing—not an outside figure; each tree has cost a little over 5s. to put there, though its actual capital value is more than that. Yet many Rubber Estates are unwilling to spend Rs. 25 per acre on the control of fungoid pests, the value of six or seven trees. The Government Mycologist has told you that this expenditure would, in all probability, prevent the trees being attacked by *Phytophthora*. When the trees are thinned out to 80 per acre, a position which must rapidly obtain in South India, the loss of a single tree, or the fact that a tree is thrown out of tapping for six months or more, due to the attack of canker or some other bark disease, will become of immense importance.

I maintain that we can easily afford to spend much more than we do at present on the treatment of fungoid diseases and that it would pay us handsomely to do so.

Thus on a certain estate in the Wynaad, Brown Blight attacked a big tea nursery very badly. 175,000 plants were endangered and the attack was so bad that orders were received by the Manager to destroy it and start again. Instead of this, however, it was treated carefully and thoroughly. All the diseased leaves were picked off and burned. All the dead and dying plants were removed and all the fallen leaves on the ground collected, and the beds were treated with lime. Light was admitted and watering was carefully done only when necessary. The nurseries were then sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture twice. The consequence was that the nursery was saved

and the plants put out in the field. When the saving is considered, the cost of the seed, and the nursery, the fact that had it been destroyed, as at first proposed, the land waiting for the plants would have lain idle for at least a year and had to be re-cleaned and prepared, it will be seen that by prompt attention and the expenditure of a few rupees—100 at the outside—promptly, a very large sum was saved.

On another estate a five-acre patch of old tea particularly badly attacked left the bushes almost leafless, except for a small spurious new growth on the top of the branches. Other parts gave one the idea that a fire had run through the field. The new wood on all badly attacked bushes was whippy and wiry and could not be pruned on to, thus necessitating collar pruning. When this was done the new suckers were attacked and killed which caused the ultimate death of the bush.

This area was put under special treatment; it was cultivated frequently and kept clean to get rid of all fallen leaves covered with spores so as to avoid re-infection. It was limed and manured with basic slag, and the field was sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture. At the same time all the diseased leaves were picked off, collected, and burned, this work being constantly and well done. In fact 17,269 lbs. of leaf were removed. This treatment was expensive, but thorough, and as well carried out as a preventive method could be carried out. What was the result? In six months the healthy foliage had been restored and the ground was completely covered where before it was exposed between the rows of bushes, the character of the wood had changed and the bushes were growing rapidly. The disease was still present it is true; it is doubtful whether any method yet devised will completely stamp out a fungoid disease once it has got hold of a crop grown over an extended area; but there was not more on this field than on the rest of the estate.

The question is was it worth the trouble and money expended, was it a sound practical policy of the planter concerned to carry out our recommendations thoroughly and not stint the money for doing so? I leave you to answer that question, and in doing so just reckon up the value of five acres of old tea which would have been lost and would have had to be replanted and brought into bearing again, and set against it the fact that the operations described above cost Rs. 50 per acre.

On the same estate this disease was tackled with a great deal of success by collecting the diseased leaves—40,000 lbs of leaf were brought in during the year and burned. This method of control was not so expensive as it might appear at first sight, because children and others were employed in this work who would not otherwise have worked on the estate, and a cash payment was made per given weight of leaf collected. Where the labour is available this is undoubtedly an excellent means of controlling this disease as the leaves are picked off and destroyed before the spores are produced and distributed from them, and it serves as an excellent example of how an important disease, which is a menace to the Tea Industry, may be controlled if the money is freely spent on it.

I will now indicate in the case of a few diseases how the methods at present adopted on many estates could be improved if a little more money were spent.

Take the case of Root Diseases first of all, fungi which attack all our crops and cause an immense amount of loss in the course of a few years. I do not wish at the moment to discuss possible methods of preventing the occurrence of these diseases, such as the removal of stumps of jungle trees known to induce the fungi before ever the land is planted up, the careful removal of stumps and roots of shade trees which may be cut out, and so on; but I wish to point out how the actual field treatment of dead plants may be improved. So often a Root Disease patch spreads and takes an annual toll of the plants around it. This can be prevented by careful work, provided the money is spent on it. In the first place the dead tea or coffee bush, or whatever it may be, should be removed as soon after death as possible. A big pit should be made and all the dead roots and decaying wood taken out and collected and burned. To do this thoroughly it is worth while passing all the soil from the pit through a sieve. Somewhere near the dead plant an old jungle stump will be found in most cases, and this is in all probability the cause of the trouble. This should be removed at the same time with all its dead roots as far as they can be traced. The soil should next be thoroughly mixed with lime in liberal proportions in order to correct acidity and hasten the decomposition of infected organic matter. It should then be heaped up and exposed to the sun for a few months and it may then be safely replanted. In the case of bad attacks where a group of bushes have died, it may be necessary to put in isolation trenches. These trenches should be taken completely round the patch and should not be bridged by logs or roots and the soil taken from them, which may possibly be infected, should be thrown into the patch and not scattered among the surrounding cultivation to infect it. Attention to all these details, which no doubt add to the cost, just means this that the disease is controlled and, in a large number of cases, cured, and a supply will grow instead of dying out again in a few years, leaving all the work to be done over again, and for this reason the extra trouble and cost is worth while.

One more example. Rubber diseases often necessitate the removal of a patch of bark and wood. In the case of canker, for instance, the diseased patch must be cut out and the wound thus made tarred. This work is more often than not done very badly. In the first place it is necessary to remove all the diseased tissue and healthy tissue for at least an inch round it; that is to say the diseased spot must be followed up and cut out till healthy tissue is found for at least an inch all round it. The material removed should be collected and burned; it is full of fungus and probably capable of producing spores and infecting other trees. Consequently it is worth while spreading a bag at the foot of the tree to make sure that all the excised material is collected. Next tar is to be applied to the wound, but it should not be applied to the healthy tissue. Consequently it should be put on with a proper brush and not daubed all over the wound and the surrounding stem with the hand or a piece of fibre, or something of that sort. Again the tar should be of the right consistency and not too thick, as it often is. A very little tar is necessary but I have seen trees in many cases left in a horrible mess of thick tar which undoubtedly burns the young bark and prolongs the time necessary for a wound thus maltreated to heal over and moreover makes it most difficult to inspect the work later on to see if there is any sign of the recurrence of the disease. Thirdly, such treated patches should be inspected from time to time to see that boring insects have not got in, and they will occasionally need another coat of tar.

Lastly, a most important point hardly ever attended to, the chisels, knives, etc., used for removing a patch of disease, canker, Pink Disease, or whatever it may be, are infected, and if used to make a trial inspection of another tree, may inoculate it with the disease. I have little doubt that Pink Disease is often spread in this way, and I know that Line Canker is spread from tree to tree by means of the tapping knives. Consequently, as soon as a case has been treated all the knives, etc., should be disinfected before they are used on the next tree, and it would be well worth while conducting experiments to see whether tapping knives could not be carried from tree to tree immersed in some disinfectant such as a weak solution of formalin.

One could go on giving examples of how methods of treatment of disease could be improved if a little more time and money were devoted to them, but those I have already given will suffice. They lead me to the main point which I wish to emphasise, namely, the absolute necessity on each estate of a well-trained pest gang, consisting of a maistry and a number of the most intelligent coolies who can be found, who should do nothing else but attend to diseases and treat each case well and thoroughly. The gang should be of such a size that it may get round the whole estate at least once a month. On a Rubber estate especially each tree should be inspected carefully for disease at least once each month.

Supervision is of course necessary and here I think there is room with advantage for an innovation. It is usually considered too expensive to employ a European Assistant for supervising work on pests and diseases only; even if one is appointed he is soon taken off to perform other duties. It always strikes me that there is too big a gap between the European Assistant on a big estate and the field-writers, and I would suggest the employment of a man intermediate between them in standing and salary, a man who has had a scientific training, and who is capable of dealing intelligently with diseases and carrying out the remedies recommended by the Scientific Officers. Such a post might well be filled by an Indian trained at Coimbatore. Were such posts available the demand for men would soon be met. The advantages of having such a man on the estate would be many. He would be placed in charge of the pest gang and do nothing else but look after disease work. His training would ensure that he was capable of recognising the disease when he saw it, and in its initial stage, and of carrying out carefully and intelligently the methods recommended for its control. He would be responsible for the keeping of spraying machinery in order, making up spray fluids properly, and he would generally supervise the work on pests and diseases.

One of the matters to be discussed at this Meeting is the advisability of appointing a Mycologist to study Rubber Diseases. If we had a Mycologist he would find such trained men on the estates an immense help. They would be capable of conducting experiments and carrying out investigations in the field and noting results with a trained mind and, moreover, they would have time to devote to such experiments which no Assistant or Manager can be expected to have. This trained man would only deal in the first place with known diseases; if he noticed a new disease he would report it and the aid of the Mycologist could at once be obtained, and there would be a certain amount of reliable information about the disease, its extent, position, and so on to lay before him.

Let us consider how such a well organised pest gang under such supervision would work. On a Rubber estate they would inspect each tree at least once a month and examine it critically for Pink Disease, Canker, Bark Rot, etc., and treat it, if necessary, in the most approved way with the best tools and apparatus known, for it would naturally be an economy to give the gang the best possible known outfit. They would remove branches which had died back and dead fruit as a preventative against *Phytophthora*. They would notice the first signs of Root Disease and take the necessary precautions. They would paint trees with Bordeaux Mixture to protect them from Pink Disease; they would attend to old wounds, re-tarring them if necessary, wounds on the tapping cut, and ensure that bark preservatives were being properly applied, and collecting cups kept clean. Whenever no other work was available the gang might be profitably utilised for removing old stumps and on general estate sanitation work. I might here say that when thinning out is done it is absolutely necessary that the stumps of the rubber trees should be removed below ground level if fungoid diseases are to be kept under control. It is not only fungi which cause Root Diseases which are to be feared, but also bark fungi which can live and propagate on such old stumps. In Ceylon *Ustilina* and other fungi have been found to develop on Hevea logs left lying in the field after thinning out.

On a Tea estate the pest gang would inspect each field each month and attend to Root Disease cases. They would notice and deal at once with attacks of caterpillars which often do a considerable amount of harm before they are discovered by the pluckers. They would deal with leaf fungi like Brown Blight and *Gleosporium*, and be in a position to notice at once when these were getting bad enough to warrant treatment, especially in clearings. They would inspect nurseries regularly and keep them sprayed against leaf diseases. They could also control the Mosquito Blight work and go over pruned areas to see that the bushes had been properly cut and cleaned, and they would apply washes to clean the stems of *epiphytes*. Again, when other work failed they could be employed to remove jungle stumps, especially those known to be likely to cause Root Disease.

On a Coffee Estate such a gang would be equally useful. They would deal with Borer trees rapidly, spray for Scale Insects, Black Rot, and Leaf Disease and treat Root Diseases, seeing that isolation trenches were clean and open. They would also regularly inspect all the shade trees for scale insects and other pests.

The great advantage of such a system would be that diseases would be attended to immediately upon their first appearance and before they could make headway, a matter of the utmost importance when dealing with any disease. Too often is it the case that trees are known to be diseased, but they are not attended to for some time afterwards and their locality is not then accurately known. How often does it happen that I am taken to see a tree suffering from Canker, say, and after finding a writer, who finds a maistry, who finds a cooly, who wanders about for some time, the tree is at last found—and is not suffering from Canker at all! This picture is not overdrawn and it is an unsatisfactory position of affairs.

Under the system which I suggest the work would be well done under skilled supervision and from my observations there is room for a great deal of improvement in the way such work is done at present.

It should be impossible for an Estate which is attending to diseases properly to show me a number of trees dead of Root Disease. The utmost that should be possible is to show me the pest gang actually removing such a tree.

Parasitic Diseases are a serious matter in South India and are likely to become more so as time goes on. Especially is the matter of importance on Rubber estates, where so many fungi can attack the bark and every possible precaution should be taken to guard against such diseases and control them. The *India Rubber Journal* stated a little time ago that "it is as well that all the interests of our industry should bear this factor in mind. While we believe that the moist hot atmosphere prevailing in rubber areas will make it easy for parasitic fungi to spread we are convinced that, *if proper precautions are taken* the damage done will be small. The Rubber Plantation Industry has not yet realised the danger ahead and it should be possible to ensure considerable sums of money from every one interested in plantation rubber to protect this magnificent national asset."

Are such sums of money forthcoming in South India? At present, as someone remarked the other day, more is spent on the hoop iron put on the rubber chests than on the Scientific Department. The Journal quoted above places the responsibility of any disease doing a large amount of harm in the future on the shoulders of the Scientific Department. Is this fair in our particular case? Have the Rubber Planters of South India taken all the steps in their power to equip their Scientific Department with men and means to deal with diseases, or to ensure that the recommendations made by their Department, such as it is, are carried out properly on the estates? I venture to think not.

It is not only the Rubber Industry which is threatened by diseases. Tea and coffee are in the same danger. Coffee planters know what a disease can do, they have seen the effects of Leaf Disease in Ceylon and Green bug in the Nilgiris and Pulneys. Tea planters in the North have witnessed the effect of a leaf disease like Blister Blight, and some of us in South India have had an inkling of what a bad fungus attack on the leaves might mean when, for some unexplained reason, Brown Blight began to do damage over a limited area last year.

Now is the time before the trouble comes, as come it will one day be sure, to see to it that you have a properly equipped Scientific Department with staff and money to deal with it when it comes, and a properly equipped and staffed organisation on the estates for carrying out the recommendations of that Department.

### **[A Discussion.]**

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Madras, said that he had not considered the matter beforehand and he could not say very much on this subject at once, but he would like to emphasise and confirm what Mr. Anstead had said. He had no experience of planters' crops, but he entirely agreed in what had been said on general grounds, and, in particular, he was struck with the suggestion made to employ men trained in the Coimbatore Agricultural College, who had received something of a scientific training on estates, especially in connection with the fight against fungoid diseases. At present the number of men trained at the College were

not sufficient for the needs of the Department on the plains; but he quite recognised their claim, and if they were willing in the future to employ such men the College would be able to supply them. In the meantime, if any planter wished to send a man there to be trained for a short time, he had no doubt that it could be arranged. He thought a few months would be sufficient for the purpose. When they got their experimental planting stations they could give these men actual training in the field.

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) said that Mr. Anstead in his lecture had rather inferred that the work was not carried out as well as it might have been, but he overlooked the labour conditions. It was very possible that the labour was not available to carry out the work as well as it might have been done. Mr. Anstead had painted a real Arcadia for them, but labour would always be the reason why this was not reached.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that this was a bugbear that was always trotted out whenever he made a suggestion. He was getting tired of it. It was entirely a case of whether the work was worth while. If they had only a limited amount of labour, from his point of view it was more important to tackle these diseases and let other things slide. The point was for them to decide. As a matter of fact, how big were these pest gangs to be?

Mr. FRASER.—About 500 coolies at least.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—Nonsense, twenty good men would be ample.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER pointed out that the rubber experiments referred to by Mr. McRae showed the cost to be so excessive that no estate could hope to maintain an emergency gang of that sort.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—You are taking a particular case. That was an experimental plot, where things were done as perfectly as possible. You must remember that disease tackled regularly and systematically from day to day gets less and less, which will enable you to reduce your labour gang. I am perfectly certain that a gang of 20 to 25 coolies, properly supervised by a trained man, working every day, would make an enormous difference.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Do you think that 25 coolies would make any impression on leaf fall?

Mr. ANSTEAD.—No, that is a special problem.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said he had seen in a circular of the Indian Tea Association that there was a proposal to establish pest gangs in Northern India. He asked if Dr. Hope had any information he could give them on the point.

Dr. HOPE.—The proposal put forward was that there should be a "Blight Brigade" to tackle a sub-district of the Darjeeling district. At present it had only got as far as the Committee stage. At a recent meeting it was decided to confine attention to one estate. We hope to begin the work next year.

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais) thought that it would only be courtesy on their part to thank Mr. Stuart for his kindly offer to train men in the College at Coimbatore. He thought Mr. Anstead's suggestion in that direction an excellent one.

Mr. STUART, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that he might point out that there would be no fees for the actual training of these men.

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais) asked if anybody could give any information about Brown Blight.

The CHAIRMAN said that he believed that Mr. Anstead had referred to his estate when he had alluded, to the case of Brown Blight on the Nilgiris. As a matter of fact, he had Brown Blight badly at Daverashola, in an old field of tea which had been planted in 1898. It used at one time to give anything from 1,000 lbs. to 1,200 lbs. an acre. Brown Blight they had all known these many years and nobody had thought much about it, but this outbreak was like nothing that he had ever seen before. When Mr. Anstead first saw it, he thought that it was Purple Blight, but he (the speaker) replied that he had been brought up with Purple Blight and could he trusted to know it when he saw it. Anyhow, if what he had was Brown Blight it was worse than any Brown Blight he had ever seen, because if it went on as it was doing just now, he would not have a tree, left in the field. All his efforts at spraying, thinning out, etc., had up, to the present done, little good. Apparently, it was not confined to this patch on Daverashola because the other day passing a neighbour's estate he saw a nursery obviously infected. A little later he saw the neighbour and remarked to him that the nursery did not look particularly healthy. The latter agreed, but said that he did not know what was the matter with it. He (the speaker) merely whispered the words "Brown Blight" when the neighbour hastily retired, to consult Mr. Anstead he supposed. He had tried Bordeaux mixture, but the plants were too thickly together; he thinned out the patch and then sprayed, but the Blight seemed, to be just as bad as ever. This was not like the blights they were all familiar with—Purple Blight, Grey Blight, or Sun Scorch; it was a serious affair and the sooner it was taken in hand the better. He was not talking about what he did not know; he had been working on tea for over 30 years, and he knew when a tea tree was healthy and when it was not. They had Brown Blight in Ceylon very virulently about 30 years ago, and they had it again about three or four years ago.

Mr. FRASER.—Is there nothing peculiar in the lie of the land?

The CHAIRMAN.—The field is on the top of a hill; it was planted on the site of the heaviest bit of jungle on the whole tote. As a matter of fact, the tote took its name "Daverashola" from this spot. I at first suspected the *Grevillea* shade and substituted *Erythrina*, which may have done some, but not much, good.

Mr. LESLIE-ROGERS (Nilgiris).—Was the field drained and properly cultivated?

The CHAIRMAN.—Cultivated as Daverashola is known to be cultivated (laughter).

Dr. HOPE said that drainage would affect it.

The CHAIRMAN.—That struck me and I am cutting drains right across the plot.

Dr. HOPE said that the one district that was really hilly in the tea tracts of North-East India was Darjeeling, and although he knew that people differed from him in their opinions on this point, he was perfectly convinced in his own mind that a great deal of the tea there,



although it lay on a steep slope suffered from want of drainage. In one part of the district he found the soil of a slope that faced north sticky, sodden and wet. He usually found on such places certain fungoid diseases, one of which was red rust. This could always be regulated by drainage and sensible manuring, which had a definite effect on the treatment of disease. Dr. Hope then proceeded to describe certain experiments that were being made in North-East India on the matter of Mosquito Blight. In the Northern India tea districts if they compared the soil analysis with the intensity of the attacks of Mosquito Blight it was found that there was a definite relationship between the ratio of available potash and available phosphoric acid. The experiments hitherto had been purely empirical, but they were being continued to find out definitely what this relationship actually was.

After some further desultory discussion the session terminated.

*Third day, Wednesday, 22nd August, 1917.*

**MEETING OF COMMITTEE C.—LEGISLATION.**

AFTERNOON.

*Present :*

*Chairman :* Mr. B. MALCOLM.

Mr. R. AINSWORTH.  
" FRASER.  
" C. R. T. CONGREVE.  
" J. B. COOK.  
" S. H. DENNIS.  
" C. H. GODFREY.  
" C. J. HAYWARD.

Mr. R. LESCHER.  
" H. L. PINCHES.  
" E. L. MAHON.  
" A. S. DANDISON.  
" A. J. WRIGHT.  
" F. M. HAMILTON.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like to re-open discussion on Equivalent Import Duty on Ceylon Tea Imported into India, in regard to which at the previous Committee Meeting there had been some feeling that it should be reconsidered. It had been proposed to accept a Resolution approving a tax on tea imported into India from Ceylon and there was an amendment advocating total prohibition. Some members had thought that prohibition was better than the fixing of a duty.

Mr. DANDISON (Nilgiris) said there was really no difference in the two proposals and he was certainly prepared to withdraw his Resolution and second Mr. Fraser's amendment if put as a Resolution. The only point was which was the most acceptable proposal to Government. They had a Resolution coming up later on in favour of Imperial Preference. How would prohibition affect that?

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais).—My Resolution does not ask for prohibition, but for help in the way of preventing the importation of outside teas.

The CHAIRMAN read out the original Resolution and Amendment as follows :—

" That in view of the large quantities of tea from other countries now being sold in India, to the detriment of the Indian Tea Industry, this Association urges upon Government the necessity in Imperial interests of increasing the duty to 4 annas per lb. on all imported teas, for the duration of the War."

" That the Government be respectfully requested to take the necessary steps to prevent the importing of all outside tea into India, as the increasing Indian consumption will afford some measure of relief in the position caused by War conditions and the present restriction of exports."

Mr. PINCHES (Kanan Devan).—That is asking for prohibition.

Mr. FRASER.—But we leave it in the hands of Government. It is surely the better policy to leave it to them to work out matters.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais), I would suggest the words "Either by prohibition or an import duty."—Mr. Abbott has advised us not to go on the lines of asking for an increase of duty. It was refused before. Besides, the Tea planters in India cannot hope to sell in Ceylon and there is no argument in asking for a similar duty for India.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Don't ask for a duty.

Mr. FRASER.—Does any gentleman know if tea can be blended in bond in Ceylon?

Mr. PINCHES.—I believe they have no facilities for the purpose.

Mr. DANDISON.—How does total prohibition come in with Imperial Preference which we are asking for?

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais).—That is only as a War measure. We are asking for a duty for all time.

The CHAIRMAN.—Is there any reason for confining this duty to the period of the War?

Mr. CONGREVE.—Would that not impair our request for Imperial Preference?

The CHAIRMAN.—I think we should give specific reasons for asking for this duty.

Mr. FRASER.—A 4-anna duty practically does mean prohibition, so I say leave it to Government to put the matter in their own way.

The CHAIRMAN.—It seems a pity to put up two Resolutions meaning the same thing.

Mr. DANDISON.—But I am prepared to withdraw mine if the Committee is in favour of Mr. Fraser's. The Nilgiri Association would be glad to have either.

Mr. DANDISON having withdrawn his proposal, Mr. Fraser's modified Resolution was now carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—It was understood yesterday that Mr. Travers-Drapes wished to make an explanation in open Meeting. He has had definite instructions to support a Resolution by South Mysore and as that was withdrawn he wishes to propose a Resolution of his own.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroy's) Not exactly. I should like to explain that it is my duty to support the original proposition from South Mysore which was put on the Agenda Paper and the proposal I suggest is as follows:—

Fixing by Government of a minimum rate of sale for Havre Standard Coffee in India.

"That the U. P. A. S. I. do approach Government and request them to fix a minimum rate of sale for Standard Coffee in India."

Our Association is very strongly of opinion that Government action in the matter, would if given effect to, considerably strengthen the tone of the local market, keep prices up to a normal figure, and check the annual gamble that is now the custom.

There is no clear reason why there should be any objection. Mr. Lake was the original proposer and if he could give me some help.

The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Lake is not present.

Mr. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—There was no discussion on it at that Meeting. We thought it would not be practical politics to expect Government to fix a minimum rate for articles which they do not require.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPE. —I take it then that the sense of the Meeting is against it? In reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Barber he said it would stop the annual gamble among the local men who deal in coffee and keep prices up to a normal figure.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—The fixing of a maximum will do the same.

Mr. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—That would be a gamble the other way round.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPE.—The idea is that they are very much influenced by bazaar rumours.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—I don't see how it can come up. It is the same thing in the ground-nut trade and the principle would have to be applied to pretty nearly every article of produce in the country. It is too big a subject to open up.

### **The Indian Defence Force.**

The CHAIRMAN invited Resolutions reminding Mr. Pinches that the matter had been put on at his request.

Mr. PINCHES (Kanan Devan).—The Resolution I propose is as follows and I want the Committee's opinion on it. It is a subject which we want to think over carefully.

“That Government and the Military authorities be asked to confer with the Planters' Association of South India regarding the application of the Indian Defence Force Act to Planting Districts, firstly with a view to ensuring that the assistance obtained from the Planting Community is as efficient as possible from a military point of view and secondly to put a stop to the unnecessary hardships and expenses at present caused to planters and also the unnecessary disorganization of Planting business.”

I shall speak to it in open Meeting on Friday.

The CHAIRMAN.—Can you not give us some idea of your views in the meantime?

Mr. PINCHES.—My points are (1) that at present in our district, and most other districts I believe, planters are obliged to travel long distances to attend drills, some of them doing 21 miles each way, and when they get there they are drilled by one of their own number. There are no Regular Officers, not even a Sergeant Instructor and I think it an absolute waste of time. Also we have to do this at our own expense. Really Indian Defence Force members are conscripts and should not be put to any expense. (2) Now that the Indian Defence Force Act has been brought in. I don't think that planters should be accepted for the I. A. R. O. or other services without reference to their employers. As matters are at present, we shall be brought down to the very lowest possible number of men on Estates and after that if the few remaining men are given commissions we shall not be able to carry on at all. Government have the power to keep men where they are, just as they have the power to call them out. (3) My third point is in regard to the position of wives and

families of planters called out for general service. We have heard nothing from the Government regarding arrangements on this point. They cannot be left in the Estate bungalow because very often it is required to put a new man into and in the out-lying places there will not be adequate protection. We want to know what Government is going to do.

The CHAIRMAN.—With regard to your first point, I think I can explain the position. There are at present no professional officers to spare and the object is that local officers should make themselves competent and learn their job to the best of their ability.

Mr. PINCHES.—Surely they can only become competent by being taught by professional officers. As at present arranged we can get no forrader. It would be better to send us to a camp.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—The arrangement is that when called up for training a man is not expected to travel more than five miles.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais).—In the Anamalais one of my assistants was asked to go ten miles and refused so as to make a test case of it and it was ruled that a man could not be forced to go more than five miles to attend a drill.

Mr. PINCHES.—There may be an explanation for all this, but good working conditions cannot be attained until we meet the Government and Military authorities. At present they don't understand the position. In Assam they have had such a Conference and I am going to refer in open Meeting to their Proceedings. The planters met the Officer in charge of the Division and arranged how they could most conveniently be trained, and he assured them that he would always leave one planter on each Estate. If this can be arranged in Assam why not in Southern India?

Mr. WADDINGTON (Ex-Vice-Chairman).—With regard to one man to be left on each Estate, many Associations have sent me their statements, but one Association has not, which makes my work more difficult. I just mention it. I have suddenly received a list showing how we shall be called out. If the arrangement proposed by this list is carried out, it will bring us to a stand-still. We have nothing to show the order in which members can be called out.

Mr. CONGREVE.—Certain private information was asked for as to dependents, etc., but it should surely not be published in a public document. I don't know whose fault it is and I am not concerned, but I think it very scandalous.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—We did not publish all information.

Mr. CONGREVE.—I think enough was published.

The CHAIRMAN.—That closes the matter of the Indian Defence Force and the Committee's work to-day.

*Fourth day, Thursday, 23rd August, 1917.*

**COMMITTEE A—(continued).**

This Committee met at 10 A.M., when the following further subjects were discussed :—

**Shipping Freights and Tonnage.**

Mr. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam) asked permission to return to this subject, because he felt that after what the Chairman had told him and after reading the Hon'ble Mr. Barber's Address on the opening day, he thought that the Resolution of which he had given notice was perhaps unfair to the Government of Madras, which had been doing its best, and he for one appreciated all that had been done. The amended Resolution that he would now propose would run as follows :—

“ That though this Association is aware that the statement recently made in Parliament by Mr. Montagu as to the question of the export of tea and rubber from Tuticorin and Malabar Ports not having been put before the Government of India, does not appear to be in accordance with the actual facts, and though it appreciates the efforts made by the Government of Madras on behalf of the Planting Community, it is of opinion that the interests of the Planting Community cannot be receiving the attention they deserve from the Government of India and the Ministry of Shipping, and respectfully requests the Government of Madras to receive a deputation at a very early date from the United Planters' Association of Southern India with reference to tonnage from Madras, Tuticorin and Malabar Ports for tea, coffee and rubber to the United Kingdom.”

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Congreve (Anamalais).

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce had sent a similar request to the Government of Madras, a copy of which had been received by this Association for action in connection with this Meeting. The Chairman read the letter received from the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TUTICORIN.**

*Tuticorin, 18th August, 1917.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY  
to Government of Madras,  
*Ootacamund.*

SIR,

I have the honour to confirm the telegram despatched yesterday to your address, reading as follows :—

“ Have addressed following telegram to Ministry Shipping, London, copy to Government of India, Home Department, Simla. begins, understand Tuticorin tonnage requirements hitherto entirely ignored, Port open all year round, situation acute, earnestly pray early space minimum three thousand tons Tea Rubber Cotton, Tuticorin, London,

Liverpool, kindly reply ends, request favour strong support Madras Government as matter growing exceedingly serious."

As will be noticed from this telegram, owing to the present shipping difficulties, the situation at this Port has become one causing the greatest anxiety. Tuticorin is an important Port, as in addition to being the outlet for the whole southern trade of this Presidency, it is also the Port of Export for most Travancore produce as well as for South Malabar during the Monsoon months, but for several months past it has been impossible to obtain any tonnage whatsoever to the United Kingdom, the result being that quantities of Tea and Rubber, as well as Cotton and other produce representing huge sums of money are hung up here without any prospect of moving on. The Banks are curtailing financial facilities, exporters who have large engagements to fulfil, find themselves unable to do so and Planters who have incurred large liabilities in connection with their crops and labour now see ruin staring them in the face. We have been waiting patiently, fully conscious of the difficulties encountered by the Home Government, hoping that matters would gradually adjust themselves, but from a telegram published in the *Madras Mail* of the 11th inst. Mr. Montagu appears to have stated in the House of Commons that exports of Tea and Rubber from Tuticorin and the Malabar Coast had not hitherto been before the Government of India.

This is indeed a state of affairs which calls for immediate remedy. From the fact that Tuticorin is being bracketed together with the Malabar Coast Ports it is evident that Tuticorin is also thought to be inaccessible during the Monsoon months, which, however, is not the case, as shipping operations at Tuticorin can be carried on at all times throughout the year, and it is equally clear that all this misery could be obviated if the Ministry of Shipping could see its way to send an occasional steamer to Tuticorin to bring the necessary relief. That this is not impossible is shown by the fact that the said Ministry can spare some of the steamers to load at other Ports such as Calcutta, Madras and Colombo, and this Chamber feels justified in looking to our Local Government for the necessary support and help in the matter.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd). T. G. SHUTE,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) said that on Monday he gave notice that he would move an amendment to Mr. Murphy's Resolution. In view of the amendment Mr. Murphy had himself made he proposed to withdraw his own Amendment.

### **The British Empire Producers' Organization.**

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore) said that he had a Resolution to put on this subject, but he would not go into details in Committee, but would only read his Resolution. Before doing so, however, he would like to explain that he would prefer to see a South Indian Planters' Association formed in London, and that that body should become a member of the British Empire Producers' Organization. He would, therefore, propose:—

"That this Association recommends the formation of a London South Indian Planting Association affiliated to the U.P.A.S.I. to

look after our interests at Home, and that the following gentlemen be asked to form themselves into a Committee to organise the scheme, with power to add to their number: Messrs. H. M. Knight, G. L. Acworth, Geo. Romilly, O. A. Bannatine, H. P. Hodgson and Brooke Mockett."

Mr. D. McARTHUR (Central Travancore) seconded the Resolution.

### **The Planters' Chronicle.**

Mr. LESLIE-ROGERS (Nilgiris) gave notice of a Resolution for improving the appearance, contents and circulation of the *Planters' Chronicle*, but after some discussion he withdrew it as the sense of the Meeting appeared to be against the Resolution. One outcome of the discussion, however, was a decision to publish a Planting Directory.

### **The Planters' War Fund.**

Mr. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam) proposed "That this Fund be brought again to the notice of our men now in His Majesty's Forces." In doing so he brought up this matter because he knew of two cases in which subscriptions had been promised to the Funds had subsequently been cancelled or withdrawn on the ground that sufficient information was not given as to what was being done with the money. He knew of one application that had been received at Home that had been refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Can you give us the details of the case that has been refused?

Mr. MURPHY.—I don't think that I would be right in giving the names. I could tell you privately.

The CHAIRMAN.—The control of this Fund rests with the Finance Committee. Any refusal at Home and any refusal out here was simply because the help asked for was not in accordance with the aims and objects of the Fund. When the Fund was formed we had to lay down certain lines on which it was to be conducted and help afforded and instructions based on these were given to the Home Committee. Any refusals that have been made have been purely on the ground that the applications were for help not contemplated by the object of the Fund.

After some further desultory discussion Mr. Murphy said that he was not finding fault with the Committee. He merely mentioned the matter because he knew that subscriptions were being withheld because of these refusals.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that those dissatisfied would get all the information they wanted in the U. P. A. S. I. Office.

### **Fire Insurance on Tea Factories.**

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that the following was the Resolution that he intended to propose:—"That this Association request the Madras Insurance Association to revise the classification of the Tea Factory risks under the Madras Tariff and to reduce rates to the level of the rates under the Ceylon Tariff, the present difference in cost having no justification." In explanation he said the Indian rates were at least 50 per cent. higher than those charged in Ceylon. A first-class risk in Ceylon was as follows "Buildings constructed throughout of iron, stone or brick with iron or tiled roofs (wooden flooring, rafters and supports allowed)." A first-class risk in India was as follows: "Fireproof means built of burnt bricks and stone and



mortar or lime, with roof and floors of brick arches on iron beams and pillars, no timber being used in construction except for external doors and window frames or for a wooden floor laid on a fireproof structure without intermediate space." He did not think there were many Tea Factories in South India built on these lines. Most Estates had factories built on the Ceylon specification by Ceylon Engineering firms, and yet these factories were charged 50 per cent. more than they were charged in Ceylon. He could not conceive any reason why a Ceylon Factory built according to specification given above was a better risk than a similar factory in India.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) seconded the Resolution.

### **The Indian Trade Commissioner.**

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore) proposed the following Resolution:—

"That it is advisable at once to enter into correspondence with the Indian Trade Commissioner in England with a view to securing his assistance in developing our industries both now and after the end of the War."

The Resolution he said was almost formal and uncontroversial, but he would not bring it forward unless the Committee was clearly of opinion that it was desirable to take action. He would like to say that its object was more the securing of new markets rather than the helping or developing of existing markets. The need for new markets had been keenly brought home to them by the War and there was little doubt that assistance in this direction would be of great value to them and he thought that they should take the earliest opportunity of placing their views before the Trade Commissioner, particularly as he was an old friend of theirs.

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. B. Malcolm (Wynaad).

### **The Hassan-Mangalore Railway.**

This subject was brought up by Mr. Hayward (South Mysore) in a speech which appears in the general discussion on the last day. The Resolution he proposed was as follows:—

"That this Association, after considering the report of Mr. Richards, the late Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey, is of opinion that the Hassan-Mangalore Railway Project demands more attention and regrets that the planters' opinions have received so little consideration."

It was seconded by Mr. S. H. Dennis (Bababudin).

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he could tell the delegates now in Committee what he could not tell them in open Meeting, namely, that His Excellency the Governor of Madras proposed to go to Mangalore in October. He hoped that the Mysore and Coorg planters would endeavour to meet him and represent their case as strongly as possible. He believed that it was purely with a view to helping in the matter of Railway construction that His Excellency was undertaking this journey.

### **Cochin Harbour.**

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) moved the following Resolution:—

"That this Association do re-affirm the Resolution passed at the 1915 Annual Meeting, and welcomes the statement of His

Excellency Lord Pentland at Meppadi that the subject of this Cochin Harbour has the support of the Madras Government."

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. A. C. Morrell (West Coast).

### **Roads on the Anamalais.**

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) moved:

"That the attention of the Government of Madras be again invited to the bad state of the main road on the Anamalais and be requested to take the necessary steps to repair and keep it in proper order."

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) seconded the Resolution.

### **An Appreciation.**

Mr. MAHON (Coorg) said he would read a statement on roads and railways in Coorg in open Meeting.

At the suggestion of the Chairman Mr. Mahon agreed to make his statement in the form of a Resolution of appreciation as follows:—

"That the Coorg Planters' Association wishes to place on record its appreciation of the manner, that their Local Government have endeavoured to push forward all matters connected with the furthering of the present railway project into the Province, in conjunction with the scheme now contemplated by the Mysore Durbar."

Resolved that this appreciation be recorded.

### **Labour and Act XIII of 1859.**

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) proposed the following Resolution:—

"That the U. P. A. S. I. strongly protests against the question of amending Act XIII being brought up at this time, when owing to the War, the Planting Industry is already heavily handicapped, but that as advances cannot be abolished, a penal law is necessary in those cases where the persons advanced have no property and little scruple in evading contracted obligations and no difficulty in evading them. It is therefore of opinion that Act XIII is necessary, and that punishment by imprisonment for disobeying the order of the Court must be retained. It has not knowledge of any abuse of the Act on the part of Managers of Estate or their Maistries, but to avoid abuse of its provision by petty landholders and others, if such occur, consider that the Act might be amended:

- (i) that cognisance should not be taken of any contract that is not in writing.
- (ii) or for a period exceeding one year.
- (iii) and that repayment of the amount due should stay any Proceedings taken by a Court under the Act."

Mr. R. LESCHER (West Coast) seconded the Resolution.

**Budget for 1917-18.**

The Secretary read the estimates of revenue and expenditure.

**Estimated Revenue for 1917-18.**

Subscriptions—	RS.	A.	RS.	A.
Anamalai Planters' Association ...	1,910	4		
Bababudin " " ...	670	0		
Central Travancore Planters' Association ...	1,693	12		
Coorg Planters' Association ...	1,635	0		
Kanan Devan Planters' Association ...	3,100	14		
Mundakayam " " ...	1,585	2		
Niligri " " ...	2,455	2		
North Mysore " " ...	1,000	0		
Shevaroy " " ...	614	6		
South Mysore " " ...	827	8		
South Travancore Planters' Association ...	1,804	6		
West Coast " " ...	2,034	2		
Wynaad " " ...	1,305	14		
			20,636	6
Contribution from the Government of Madras ...			1,000	0
<i>Planters' Chronicle</i> ...			800	0
Ex-Chairmen's subscription ...			45	0
Interest ...			800	0
Contribution from the Labour Department ...			2,885	0
Book of Proceedings ...			350	0
Contribution from R. G. A. to Secretary ...			600	0
" " " " to U. P. A. ...			240	0
Estimated fees for Analyses ...			1,800	0
			Rs. 29,156	6

**Estimated Expenditure for 1917-18.**

Salary—	RS.	A.	RS.	A.
Secretary, U. P. A. ...	6,000	0		
" R. G. A. ...	600	0		
			6,600	0
Office Salary—				
Book-keeper ...	70	0		
Mr. Anstead's Writer ...	50	0		
Labour Department Writer ...	30	0		
Typist ...	40	0		
Peon ...	11	0		
Peon ...	10	0		
Sweeper ...	4	0		
Sweeper ...	1	0		
	216 × 12		2,592	0
Rent ...			1,800	0
Postages ...			400	0
Lighting and Water ...			80	0
Office Charges and Petties ...			250	0
Stationery ...			400	0
Printing ...			100	0
Telegrams ...			600	0

	RS.	A.
Contribution to Government of Madras	...	4,036 0
Three Reporters' Fees and Expenses	...	525 0
Chairman's Travelling Allowance	...	150 0
Planting Member's Travelling Allowance	...	150 0
Subscription to London Chamber of Commerce	...	150 0
Periodicals	...	200 0
Book of Proceedings	...	450 0
Audit Fee	...	750 0
Depreciation	...	250 0
Fire Insurance	...	17 7
Committee Meetings	...	1,500 0
Files for Office...	...	200 0
Contingencies	...	50 0
Library	...	100 0
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts—		
A. Contingencies	...	100 0
Library...	...	100 0
B. Analytical Branch—		
(a) Salary of Assistant Chemist	...	1 200 0
(b) Wages of Laboratory Peon	...	120 0
(c) Laboratory Upkeep	...	800 0
(d) Lighting and Heating	...	80 0
Total	23,750	7

And a further sum of Rs. 200 for furniture.

Mr. ANSTEAD suggested a telephone connection for the U. P. A. S. I. offices as likely to meet a great want.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't think Government would be likely to permit an installation.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad).—There is one already on each side of the offices.

The CHAIRMAN.—I do not think it advisable.

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam).—I have a Resolution, Sir, for consideration during the year, namely, that the offices of the Association be removed to Madras. There are good reasons why our headquarters should be located in the Chief Presidency town.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are registered in Madras.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—There is a great deal in Mr. Murphy's point. It would facilitate business enormously to transfer the U.P.A.S.I. offices to Madras. I was going to propose that an increase in the Secretarial staff be considered by this Meeting by way of relieving the Chairman of a good deal of the work which as an unpaid officer is thrown upon him. I don't think that the present staff is able to cope with all the work. I mentioned something of this nature on Monday. I shall be very glad if members in Committee, or open Meeting, would consider the advisability of increasing the office staff as well as Mr. Murphy's Resolution. The Budget shows a profit of Rs. 5,000, but when you get spending money, such a sum does not go very far, and possibly there are members who will say we cannot afford it at present. Besides, the lease of the present premises has to run for another two years.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Perhaps we can let them for a shop for more. The only difficulty is that we have spent a lot of money on the Laboratory and cannot, therefore, afford to separate the two departments.

The CHAIRMAN.—The question came up some years back.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Yes, I mentioned then that the office premises were thrown on our hands, about the time Mr. Ormerod left, and I had to take it on myself to lease the place for five years without the authority of the Association, and my action was subsequently approved. But at the time I was assured that there would be no difficulty in letting the place. I would not have done this at the time, but Mr. Anstead urged the contingency of the Laboratory and it was desirable that both sections should remain under the same roof as there was some likelihood of the office rooms being taken for a motor repair shop. No doubt the place is in the best position for our purposes, but I do think that if it is decided to remove, there can be no difficulty in renting the offices at a better rate.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—You must also consider the fact that there is a feeling that the Madras Government consider Coonoor to be the most suitable headquarters for the Mycologist. It would be most unsuitable to locate a Scientific Office in Madras. Why not remove your Scientific Department to Coonoor and get rid of the whole building? It certainly looks as if the Mycologist is going to Coonoor and I should not like to be divided from his section.

Mr. TIPPING (Coorg).—As far as Coorg is concerned I am afraid the idea will not be favourably regarded by my Association from all I know at present.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Mr. Murphy is merely making a suggestion for open Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN.—You don't want to press it in open Meeting?

Mr. MURPHY.—No. It can be considered during the course of the year.

The CHAIRMAN.—Is any information wanted from the Secretary under the Budget? The chief increases of expenditure during the past year were under telegrams due largely, about Rs. 600, to telegrams concerning coffee prohibition and tea matters and Committee expenses. As to increases expected this year, I have made some references in my Address. The estimates provide for sufficient money to cover contingencies of this kind.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore).—Is there anything further to be said about Mr. Barber's proposal to increase the office staff.

The CHAIRMAN.—I propose to put it from the Chair in the General Meeting.

Mr. ABBOTT.—I propose that the Budget be accepted.

The Committee then closed discussion.

*Fourth day, Thursday, 23rd August, 1917.*

**COMMITTEE D.**

*President:* Mr. F. M. HAMILTON.

Members of the Committee.

*(Present).*

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.  
" J. S. NICOLLS.  
The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.  
Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE.  
" R. LESCHER.  
" B. MALCOLM.  
" J. J. MURPHY.  
" H. L. PINCHES.  
" A. S. DANDISON.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON—(*Not Present*).  
" ECCLES, I.C.S.  
" WADDINGTON.  
" J. A. RICHARDSON—(*Not Present*).  
" C. LAKE.  
" V. TRAYERS-DRAPES.  
" A. Ff. MARTIN.

The subject of Labour Department was first taken up for discussion.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) was the first speaker and he said :—

I should like to bring to the notice of this Meeting the treatment we received from the Director of the Labour Department over the matter of the Criminal Tribes. When it was suggested by the Department that we should try these coolies, we were informed that they would be permanent on the estates and that if no great benefit was derived from them at first, their children, born and brought up on the estates, would form an extremely valuable labour force. It was on this understanding that some of us agreed to try them. When eventually they all bolted, Government informed us that they had no power to stop them, and that in any case they had only been sent up on trial for one year. Why did the Labour Department not find this out and inform us before they advocated our taking the coolies?

At a Committee Meeting of the Department held in Ootacamund, on 16th October, 1916, the Director read out a report apparently drawn up by the Coimbatore D. S. P and himself on the cause which induced these coolies to bolt. This report was extremely damaging to the planters who had employed them. Mr. Simcock our Delegate at that Committee Meeting informed us on his return that the Director appeared to agree with the report and did not in any way back us up. Is this the sort of treatment we are to expect from the Department. Surely it was the business of the Director before reading out this report to Delegates from nearly all the planting districts in S. India, to have taken all possible evidence from the planters concerned, and to have visited the district and consulted the Association, or if this was impossible, to have anyhow disassociated himself publically at the Meeting from the report. He seems to have done neither, but to have allowed the Meeting to think that the Anamalai Planters had behaved extremely badly over their treatment of these coolies. The members of my Association feel very strongly about this matter and consider the treatment meted out to them will greatly prejudice the future of the Department.

Mr. DANDISON (Nilgiris) endorsed the views of the speaker.

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—Perhaps there are objections to this course being adopted and Mr. Martin might enlighten us on the subject.

Mr. MARTIN said that at the Ootacamund meeting he distinctly said that the notes he read out were taken from the report of the D. S. P. and were not his own. He said that Mr. Simcock must have misunderstood him, and that he never for one moment associated himself with them, and that no one left the meeting under that impression. Mr. Martin further pointed out that he had been given to understand the coolies were to be permanent, and he was as much surprised as any one when Government said they had only been sent up on trial for one year. He regretted the whole incident as much as the Anamalai Planters, and it was a very great disappointment to him, as he had looked to the Free Coolies as a very valuable Labour Force.

Mr. MARTIN (Director, Labour Department).—The Anamalai Planters' Association and other subscribers were not satisfied with the closing balances as given in the Auditor's Report. They wanted the details of each agency or division. It would never do to publish these. Every subscriber was quite welcome to come and inspect the accounts in the office of the Labour Director. But to send them out entailed serious risks. If the details were printed, the printed copy might fall into the hands of competitors or into the hands of professional agitators. After all there was the Control Committee consisting of business men and one of the members of the Committee was elected by the subscribers.

Mr. CONGREVE.—We only want the details to be sent to subscribers.

Mr. MARTIN.—Even then the risks are serious. There is the risk of the printed copy getting out of the hands of the subscribers.

Mr. CONGREVE.—It is very difficult for subscribers to come down all the way to Bangalore to inspect the details. And the subscribers of my Association like to know how the money is being spent so that they could individually understand how things were going.

Mr. MARTIN.—If the details furnished are kept quite private there would be perhaps no objection to furnishing them. But still, there remains the fact that the course would be fraught with serious risks.

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad).—I appreciate Mr. Congreve's anxiety to have the details and at the same time I also see Mr. Martin's point. It is certainly undesirable that a certain class of people should get at the figures. The subscribers, however, did not ask for too many details. They only wanted to see the estimates once a year and if some means were found for allowing this it would make matters easier for the Department.

Mr. MARTIN.—I am prepared to give a certain amount of information, but as regards estimates, I should want to get the view of the Control Committee.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) suggested that one copy embodying all information be sent to each District Association, either to the Honorary Secretary or some selected person in the district. The person to whom the copy was so sent might convene a Meeting of the subscribers in his district and place the details before them. It was certainly most inadvisable to have the estimates knocking about a place. They should be most carefully kept.

After some further discussion Mr. Congreve gave notice of his intention to move the following Resolution at the open Meeting:—

“That the Labour Director's Annual Report and detailed copy of accounts showing the amount spent by each division and the area served by each be sent to one subscriber to be elected by the Planters' Association of his district and that a copy of yearly estimates, etc., also be made available.”

Mr. DANDISON (Nilgiris) said he would second the Resolution.

G. O. No. 101.

Mr. WADDINGTON (Ex-Vice-Chairman.) next made a statement regarding G. O. No. 101 of the Madras Government and how a similar Government order in Mysore could be of great assistance to the planters. Under the Government order it was explained, how the subordinates of the Police Department did not have the handling of warrants issued under the Planters' Labour Act, until the Labour Department had located the defaulters concerned.

The Committee expressed the hope that something would be done by the Mysore Durbar on lines similar to those of the Madras G. O. No. 101.

### **Labour Department and its work.**

Mr. LAKE (South Mysore) next drew attention to the existing state of affairs as regards the Labour Department. He began by paying a tribute to the work that Mr. Martin and his officers had already accomplished. They were most energetic men and their enthusiasm for the work they had undertaken was quite unquestionable. But the Department had been in existence for three years and it was now getting into its fourth year. The present was really an opportune moment to take stock of the Department's work in the past and to suggest improvements for the future. To begin then, the feeling widely obtained in South Mysore that the subscription to the Department which was two rupees per acre was much too high. If the Department was to continue to get the same support as heretofore, it was absolutely necessary to reduce the subscription some way or other. He could not say if this was to be done by obtaining Government support or by getting in a larger acreage. It would be sufficient for his purpose if he pointed out how the lines on which the Department was being run were much too costly and there was the appearance of the whole thing being cumbersome and too heavy. It was also the opinion of the speaker that the Department would achieve better results by spending more money at recruiting centres than at headquarters. During the past year Rs. 2,10,000 and odd had been spent and this was Rs. 6,000 in excess of the income. How long could this sort of thing continue? would it not be better, the speaker asked, if the head office at Bangalore was done away with and each circle or recruiting centre was made self-contained and responsible for work done within its area. Lastly the speaker emphasised that in anything he had said he had been only prompted by a desire to re-construct the whole Department on a proper basis and nothing was further from his mind than to indulge in mere destructive criticism.

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais).—It was of vital importance that matters in the Labour Department should be rectified before these came to a crisis.



Mr. MARTIN pointed out that by abolishing the Head Office, as suggested by Mr. Lake, the end in view would not be attained. If the Head Office were abolished there would spring up in its place numerous Labour Departments all over the country and there would come in competition amongst them. It was absolutely necessary that there should be a Head Office to keep things together and even as matters stood at present, there were little Departmental jealousies that had to be smoothed away.

Everything considered, Mr. Lake's scheme was quite a revolutionary one and it was for the Controlling Committee to look into the matter. Speaking for Mr. Waddington and for himself, the speaker thought it was too much to expect that they should carry out the re-organization scheme proposed by Mr. Lake.

Mr. LAKE hastened to reply that his scheme did not at all contemplate the doing away with the Director. What he had in mind was that each division should have the benefit of its subscriptions within its own area.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) complained that sufficient money had not been spent by the Labour Department on advertisement propaganda. An extensive campaign of advertisement was necessary in his opinion, in order to attract labourers. The Ceylon and the Straits Labour Commissions were at present known throughout the districts, but the same could not be said of the U. P. A. S. I. Labour Department. The speaker also added that a friend of his who had made an extensive tour in this Presidency had remarked about the paucity of advertisement that was gone in for by the U. P. A. S. I.

Mr. MARTIN said that the Labour Department was advertising. In the Chittoor District Mr. Walters and his motor car were a familiar spectacle. Mr. Walters also carried about with him a gramophone and among the records was a specially composed U. P. A. S. I. song in Tamil. Tin posters were also prominently displayed in many places. In the Ceded Districts the Department was distributing hand-bills on a large scale. In the Coimbatore District there was probably not much being done in the advertisement line, but Mr. Waddington had the matter under consideration.

Mr. WADDINGTON pointed out that Ceylon and the Strait Settlements had actual depôts all over the country which everyone talked about and the coolies accordingly knew more about them.

Mr. LAKE eventually gave notice of his intention to move the following Resolution at the General Meeting :—

"That the Director, Deputy Director and Control Committee with power to add to their number be asked to prepare a scheme of re-organization of the Labour Department on a basis of subscription of approximately Re. 1 per acre."

Mr. FRASER (Anamalai) said he would second the Resolution.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad).—I gather that we are to go on with our Labour Department for the period of five years agreed upon?

Mr. HAMILTON (South Mysore).—Of course.

### Mr. Malcolm's Resolution.

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad) next said that he had a Resolution which he did not wish to move at the General Meeting. He wanted to move the Resolution at the Meeting at which they were now assembled, his idea being that what he had to say should be carefully considered by the subscribers to the Labour Department. Before moving the Resolution, however, he would like to point out how, when the Labour Department was started, a strong point was made of the fact that it would enable new districts to be opened for Labour recruitment. The Department had admittedly failed to do so, and in the circumstances it was high time the Department was run on a cheaper scale. The speaker had written to Mr. Martin about the Department not having opened up new districts. Mr. Martin in reply admitted having failed to find new sources of labour. The speaker upon this again wrote to Mr. Martin asking him for the considered opinion of the Control Committee on the matter. Mr. Martin's reply which must have been written with the approval of the Control Committee was, from the speaker's point of view highly unsatisfactory and it was also unjustifiably curt, seeing that, in entirely good faith, it was that the point had been raised. However, to go on with what he had to say, it was really unfortunate that the Labour Department should have closed down certain circles. But even apart from this, the districts in which the Department was working had been over-recruited. That this was the case Mr. Martin himself admitted. How then, in such circumstances would the Department be justified in seeking for more subscribers? To admit more subscribers would be neither to the advantage of the new or the old subscribers. The speaker was also of opinion that the Department was being run on much too expensive lines. The superior officers were doing a tremendous lot of travelling and were also spending a good deal of money on telegrams. It would be a good idea if the officers charged particular Estates on whose behalf they did any travelling instead of the Department, as at present happened to be the case. Mr. Malcolm before concluding said that his Resolution was as follows:—

"That the subscribers of the Labour Department observe with regret that it has been thought necessary to close down the Bellary circle and that the Madanapalle circle is shortly to be closed down and considers that it is of great importance that the investigation of at least one entirely new centre should be persisted in."

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Godfrey (North Mysore).

The Hon. Mr. E. F. BARBER interposing at this stage pointed out that the Labour Department had been the means of collecting during the year a sum of Rs. 35,000 on behalf of the subscribers. This showed indeed how useful the Department was and would the subscribers be willing to hand over some percentage of the recoveries to the Department? This should not prove a hardship in any way. The Labour Department should form the main plank of the U. P. A. S. I. and the other interests of the body should be subordinate to it.

Mr. LAKE.—The suggestion that a percentage of the recoveries should be paid to the Labour Department was an excellent one and he was prepared to give up 25 per cent. of his recoveries.

The last subject discussed was the exodus of the criminal tribes settled by Government on the Anamalais.

*Fifth day, Friday, 24th August, 1917.*

The delegates met at 10 A.M. in open Meeting to discuss the Resolutions framed in the various Committee Meetings.

### **ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts passed in Committee were adopted.

#### **The Fertiliser Act.**

Mr. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam) moved "That the efforts of the Indian Tea Association to have a Fertiliser Act brought into law be supported by this Association." He did not wish to say anything on the subject, because Dr. Hope, the Scientific Officer of the Indian Tea Association, who was present, was more competent to deal with the subject. It would be a good thing he thought if such a law could be brought into existence.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) seconded the motion.

Dr. HOPE said:—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should explain to begin with that my visit here is being made with the object of ascertaining whether your Association will support the Indian Tea Association in pressing for an Indian Fertiliser Act.

The question whether it is advisable to legislate to prevent fraudulent practices in the sale of manures was first brought up in the years 1906-1907, and in the latter year the subject was discussed at the Meeting of the Board of Agriculture. Several notes and memoranda were written before that Meeting, one of them by Dr. Lehmann, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore, and another by Dr. Harold H. Mann, who was then the Chief Scientific Officer of the Indian Tea Association. Dr. Lehmann wrote advocating legislation but Dr. Mann considered that legislation was unnecessary in the interests of the North East Indian Tea Estates and stated that the use of artificial fertilisers by ryots in Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Assam, was then so small as to be negligible. It was decided at the Board Meeting that, though the matter should be watched, legislation was then unnecessary.

The matter was again brought before the Committee of the Indian Tea Association last year, having first been raised by the Surma Valley Branch of that Association. In view of the very great increase which has taken place during the last ten years in the use of artificial fertilisers on the tea estates of North-East India, and in view also of the fact that the trade in manures is now becoming a very important one in Calcutta and is likely to extend to sales for use on ryots crops, the Committee of the Indian Tea Association considered it desirable to press for an Act as soon as possible, while the trade is chiefly in the hands of well reputed firms, rather than to allow matters to remain as they are until the trade becomes of larger dimensions and falls partly into the hands of unscrupulous persons who would not hesitate to sell worthless and adulterated material or to misrepresent facts on their invoices and circulars.

The Committee of the Indian Tea Association, therefore, approached the Governments of Bengal and of Assam drawing attention to the necessity for such an Act, and they have been asked to present their case as strongly as possible to the Government of Assam.

It has now been arranged that the question of legislation in connection with the sale of fertilisers will be discussed at the Meeting of the Board of Agriculture which is to be held in Poona in December next.

A unanimous opinion on an important point such as this expressed by the Indian Tea Association carries considerable weight, and if to it could be added that which your Association could give by passing a Resolution in favour of an Act, I think we could feel that the matter would receive careful and sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Board of Agriculture in December.

Put briefly the argument put forward by the North-East Indian Tea Industry for an Act to protect buyers of all classes of artificial fertilisers, indigenous and imported, is as follows :—

Firstly, one of the most important developments which has taken place in the routine of tea garden operations within the last decade has been the large and increasing attention given to manuring. Owing to the requirements of the North-East Indian Tea Estates alone a large and important manuring industry has now been established in Calcutta. Direct trading in the finished products of the industry in Calcutta is at present exclusively in the hands of European firms.

In spite, however, of the fact that the sale of artificial manure is, as above stated, in the hands of European firms of repute, it is desirable at this stage of development in India of an industry of which control by means of special legislation has been found necessary in all agricultural countries when the use of fertilisers becomes widespread, that the suggestion should be put forward by the Association for the consideration of Government that it is sound policy to establish means to prevent malpractices on the part of sellers of manures now, instead of having to devise methods of cure later for an evil which, in the absence of a Fertiliser Act, is likely to become excessively harmful in India.

Although at present the use of artificial manures is chiefly confined to the crops grown by the European planting communities there are crops which are grown by ryots, such for instance as jute, sugarcane, cotton and tobacco, for which the value of manures is now recognised by agricultural officers in all parts of India. For these crops, as well as for paddy, manures are now used, and it is safe to assume that in the future very large quantities of artificial fertilisers will be required, for ryots and zemindars are slowly waking up to the fact that manuring pays.

It is more than probable that, as the use of manures extends, the requirements of the above classes will be catered for chiefly by small merchants and middlemen, who are likely to attempt from the beginning to foist worthless and adulterated materials on ignorant purchasers.

As regards the nature of the legislation most suitable for the purpose in view, namely, of protecting the interests of buyers of all classes of artificial manures, it is first of all obvious that, if a Fertiliser Act were to be put into force in India, such complete methods of control of the

quality of manures as exist in the United Kingdom would be impossible. However, my Association proposes to submit for the consideration of Government that legislation to protect the sale of fertilisers is necessary in the interest of both the planting communities and ryots, and that it should embody the principle that misrepresentations and fraudulent practices in connection with the sale of fertilisers constitute an offence punishable at criminal law.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S. (Director of Agriculture, Madras) said that this question of legislation about fertilisers would come up at the forthcoming Board of Agriculture meeting at Poona, at which he might be present and he would certainly support it there. He was decidedly of opinion that legislation of this sort would be a protection to the ryots who were steadily taking to the use of artificial manures especially for the paddy crops.

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD (Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts), said that he had little to add to what Dr. Hope had said as he had put the matter very concisely. Personally he felt strongly that such an Act was necessary to strengthen their hands in what was a very important matter of getting pure fertilisers. When the matter came up at Poona and was there threshed out they would have an opportunity of knowing who was for and who was against it. He thought that a representative of the planters should attend that Meeting and listen to what transpired when the matter was discussed there.

The CHAIRMAN put the Resolution which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that he was sure that he was voicing the opinion of all present in according Dr. Hope a hearty vote of thanks for coming such a long distance to put before them so clearly the need there was for a Fertilisers' Act.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Dr. HOPE.—Please accept my thanks on behalf of my Committee for the support given to our efforts. I can assure you that with your aid when we get a good opening, we shall be able to carry the matter much farther.

### **The Deputy Director's Tour Programme.**

Messrs. PINCHES (High Range), Fraser (Anamalais), Lescher (West Coast), Richardson (Central Travancore), Dandison (Nilgiris) and J. B. Cook (South Travancore) all notified how pleased their Associations would be if Mr. Anstead could include their districts in one or other of his forthcoming tour programmes during the year.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that he took it that this meant that he might arrange his own programme. He had not yet framed any programme, but in all probability before the end of the year he would be able to pay a visit to the Shevaroyis in connection with fruit disease, when he hoped to be accompanied by the Government Mycologist.

### **The Re-organisation of the Scientific Department.**

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that the Resolution he proposed in Committee was "That Messrs. Anstead, Richardson and Tipping be appointed a Sub-Committee to discuss the questions of the lease of land, buildings, and other matters in connection with the experimental stations."

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais) had seconded the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN asked if the Sub-Committee had any report on the question. If so with the permission of the Meeting he would call for it.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) said that on the day they had the honour of being appointed they had met Mr. Stuart and had settled all details of the buildings, land leases, etc., in connection with the experimental stations he thought to the satisfaction of everybody concerned. He did not think that there was anything else to report. He had not a written report; what they had settled Mr. Stuart had a copy of.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART said that the particular point to be settled was the details of the leases which had to be executed by the separate Estates giving Government their land for the four experimental stations. It was a matter that really concerned only the several Estates and the Government. They had drafted details of the leases and had sent them to Government for final approval after which they would be ready for execution. They had also settled details about the buildings that would have to be put up.

### **Mycologist's Headquarters.**

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) next moved the following Resolution:—"That in the opinion of the Association the initial headquarters of the Mycologist for Planting Districts should be at Coimbatore to afford him facilities to conduct his work to the best advantage until such time as the best site for a permanent headquarters has been decided upon." In doing so the mover said:—

As the appointment of a Mycologist for the Planting Districts has been sanctioned by Government, we have to decide where in our opinion is the most suitable place for his headquarters. Coimbatore has been suggested and the idea is sound. We must look before we leap and it would be an appalling blunder to decide on a site for permanent headquarters, and to spend money only to find eventually that the wrong place had been selected. From Coimbatore the Mycologist could visit the planting districts and having done so would be in a position to decide where his permanent headquarters ought to be. When considering the Coimbatore scheme, we must not forget the very great advantage the Mycologist would derive from having the organisation and library of the Agricultural Department at his disposal.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING seconded the Resolution and it was then unanimously carried. He thought that as everybody told them that there could be no better place than Coimbatore in which to start their Mycologist on his work, it would be best to have the headquarters there.

### **The Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department.**

Mr. ANSTEAD said that the Report that he was about to read was first of all put in the form of a letter written to the Finance Committee, who authorised him to place it before the Meeting. He then read the following Report:—

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the working of the Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department for the period, 1st July, 1916 to 30th June, 1917.

During this period the following samples have been analysed and certificates issued :—

				Fertilisers.	Soils.	Fees Rs.
1916.	July	...	...	9	3	144
	August	...	...	6	3	134
	September	...	...	6	...	49
	October	...	...	20	...	125
	November	...	...	7	1	59
	December	...	...	21	...	121
1917.	January	...	...	9	2	91
	February	...	...	5	10	269
	March	...	...	14	3	138
	April	...	...	1	...	3
	May	...	...	13	6	208
	June	...	...	4	7	189
Total ...				115	35	1,530

It will be noted that this is a great improvement on last year when only 59 samples of fertilisers were analysed and 20 samples of soil.

There is still a good deal of irregularity in the amount of work received, and with regard to soil samples this has led to a certain amount of dissatisfaction. Planters have complained that they have been kept waiting a long while for their analyses. This delay is unavoidable if the samples are received irregularly. For example from July to October only 3 soil samples were received while in November 13 were received, and again in March 15 were received. With our present staff and equipment we are unable to analyse more than 4 soil samples a month on the average ; it is not fully realised I think by laymen that a soil analysis is a long and tedious process and cannot be speeded up, the processes involved take days to complete. Consequently we received enough work in November to last us three months and naturally some one had to wait this period for their results or more. It will be noted from the above list that ten analyses were completed and reported on in February. Some of these might perhaps have been sent at the end of January, but, as I was away on tour, though the analyses were finished the reports were not completed. Again the congestion of samples received in March was worked off in May and June.

The only suggestions I have to make to avoid this delay and natural disappointment are—

- (a) That planters must fully realise that a soil analysis cannot be completed in a few days like that of a fertiliser.
- (b) That it must also be realised that unless our staff and equipment are increased we can only undertake 50 soil samples a year, and if work is already in hand and samples waiting when a new one is received there must necessarily be delay.

- (c) That planters who wish to have soil samples analysed should look ahead and write and ask when such samples may be sent. Were this method adopted I could better ensure the distribution of work and be able to say fairly definitely when the analyses are likely to be finished.

I cannot think that there is the hurry about the need of these analyses which is sometimes made out. An estate which has never had soils analysed before can surely carry on another six months without an analysis even after it has made up its mind to have analyses made. Were planters to make up their mind each year how many samples they wished analysed, get these taken, and hold them till I ask for them after writing to me to say they wished them analysed it would help me a lot and we might have a steady flow of work instead of the present slack times followed by rushes which swamp us.

With regard to finance I attach a statement. It will be noted that the laboratory upkeep was badly underestimated. The price of chemicals has advanced at a rate out of all proportion to any expectations. As a single example Hydrochloric Acid which used to cost As. 8 per lb. is now Rs. 6. Chemicals cannot be obtained from England and unless matters improve it is quite on the cards that we may have to close down on account of being unable to procure chemicals at all. In the ensuing year I would ask for a budget of Rs. 800 for laboratory upkeep.

Savings as far as possible have been made on other headings, but the total budget for the Scientific Department has been exceeded by Rs. 189-6-9.

The actual expenditure on the Analytical Branch was as follows.—

			RS.	A.	P.
<i>Laboratory.</i>	Lighting	...	50	3	5
	Upkeep	...	717	8	9
	Contingencies	...	75	9	3
<i>Salaries</i>	...	...	1,320	0	0
Total			2,163	5	5

Against this fees have been earned to the amount of Rs. 1,530 so that this Branch of the Department has been run this year at a loss of Rs. 633-5-5 as compared with a loss last year of Rs. 969-15-8.

I am in correspondence with the Council of the Mysore Planters' Association with a view to taking over the stock of chemicals in Mr. Frattini's Laboratory. If they can meet us in this matter it will help us a good deal. Up to date I have not received a definite decision from them.



## SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, SOUTHERN INDIA.

EXPENDITURE.			BUDGET.		
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.			RS. A. P.
A. Salaries.			A. Salaries	...	1,320
Assistant Chemist	1,200 0 0		B. Laboratory.		
Laboratory Peon	120 0 0	1,320 0 0	Upkeep	...	400
B. Laboratory.			Lighting	...	80
Upkeep	717 8 9		C. Contingencies	...	100
Lighting	50 3 5	767 12 2	D. Periodicals	...	200
C. Contingencies.	75 9 3		E. Library	...	100
D. Periodicals.	192 5 10		F. Government of Madras	...	4,086
E. Library.	33 11 6		Deficit on Budget and Expenditure	...	6,236 0 0
F. Government of Madras.	4,036 0 0	4,337 10 7			189 6 9
					6,425 6 9
Total Rs. ...	...	6,425 6 9	Loss. Difference between actual expenditure and Fees received	...	633 5 5

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1917-18.**

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.				RS.
A. Salaries	...	...	...	1,320
B. Laboratory	...	...	...	
Upkeep	...	...	...	800
Lighting	...	...	...	80
C. Contingencies	...	...	...	100
D. Periodicals	...	...	...	200
E. Library	...	...	...	100
F. Government of Madras	...	...	...	4,036
Total				6,636

**Mycologist for Rubber.**

Mr. J. J. MURPHY next moved the following:—(1) "That Government be asked through the U. P. A. S. I. if they will engage a Mycologist for the study of rubber diseases in South India, salary and other expenses being met by the rubber acreage in South India, and that the support of the other Associations be asked to the Resolution. (2) That in the event of other Rubber Associations not approving of the scheme, the U. P. A. S. I. be asked if they will engage a Mycologist for Mundakayam only, at that district's expense."

Mr. MURPHY in doing so, said that it was not necessary for him to say anything much to recommend the Resolution. They all knew how invaluable the services of a Mycologist for rubber could be. If all the rubber districts agreed to have a Mycologist, the cost would come to Rs. 8 per acre. If, however, Mundakayam alone was to engage a Mycologist it would cost the Estates Rs. 2 per acre. If all the rubber areas would agree to come in, well and good, otherwise Mundakayam wanted the U. P. A. S. I. to guarantee to Government the expenses of engaging a Mycologist for rubber, taking of course, a bond from the Estates, as was done in the case of the Scientific Department. It might not be possible to obtain a Mycologist till after the War, but all the same he was anxious that all arrangements for getting one should be made ready now.

Mr. J. B. COOK (South Travancore) seconded the Resolution. There was no knowing what new rubber diseases unknown in Ceylon and the Straits might spring up in India and it was absolutely necessary to have a Mycologist for rubber on the spot.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., welcomed the proposal to have a Mycologist for rubber, and it was gratifying that the planters were willing to bear the cost.

It might seem premature to be talking about a second Mycologist before they had obtained the first; but there was certainly plenty of work for two men, and if the Association was prepared to meet the cost of the second man he did not see that there could be any objection. He would be glad to employ him as a Member of the Department specially to work on diseases of rubber.

Mr. McRAE (Government Mycologist) said that if they had a Mycologist for rubber he would have quite enough to do just as a Mycologist for tea or coffee would have plenty of work to do. In the work he had done in connection with planting products, he felt that he could

only touch matters slightly and could never get to the bottom of any one thing. Take for instance the case of bark diseases on Rubber trees. He expected to get down in the rains and find the fungus. He worked at it for some days but could not find the fungus. There must be a fungus, if one had time to look for it at the proper time.

The Resolution was carried.

## **Roads and Communications.**

### **THE HASSAN-MANGALORE RAILWAY.**

Mr. C. J. HAYWARD (South Mysore) next moved the following:—  
“That this Association, after considering the report of Mr. Richards, the late Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey, is of the opinion that the Hassan-Mangalore Railway Project demands more attention and regrets that the planters’ opinions have received so little consideration.”

In doing so Mr. Hayward said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—This proposed scheme as most of you know, has been held up on account of the Shimoga-Bhatkal proposal and from the remarks of the Dewan of Mysore on the opening day of this Meeting it was apparent that the Mysore Durbar is set on getting the Shimoga-Bhatkal Scheme through if possible. I think I may safely say that this latter project would never have received serious attention but for the fact that there is a chance of the Mysore Durbar obtaining there a port on the West Coast of their very own. That the port may be made an open port all the year round or whether the scheme is likely to pay are, I believe, minor considerations. The fact that Mangalore cannot be made an open port all the year round was not considered to any great extent until an excuse was required to abandon the Hassan-Mangalore Scheme in favour of this new one and if this defect was so prejudicial to Mangalore. Mr. Richards’ report points to Malpe as the next best place for consideration, it lies only 37 miles north of Mangalore which would not be a great distance to extend the railway now running to Mangalore. I will now read a few extracts from the note of Mr. Richards, late Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey, printed in the *Madras Mail* of the 10th March, 1917. He said “It should be clearly understood that no line in the Shimoga Group will do much good to the Bombay Presidency or the Madras Presidency or Coorg.” I think, Gentlemen, a study of the map will show that Mr. Richards would not have been far wrong if he had added—or to a large part of Mysore. In another part of the same note he said “My present opinion is that the best line runs through Tirthakalli to Malpe, but that no line in the Shimoga Group can beat the Hassan-Mangalore Line if we take into account not only the interests of Mysore but also the interests of ‘Coorg’ and the adjacent parts of British territory.”

There is one more matter I wish to bring to your notice. When I brought forward this matter at the Annual Meeting of this Association in 1915, Sir Hugh Daly, the late Resident, was present and kindly gave us some information on the subject and practically at his request, I withdrew my Resolution which read:—“This Association regrets the

contemplated abandonment of the Mysore section of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway and trusts that the Mysore Durbar will give the matter fuller consideration in conjunction with the Mysore planters, before a final decision is arrived at," I withdraw it because Sir Hugh Daly after giving us some information on the subject said :—

"The Resolution expresses the hope that the Durbar will give full consideration to the Mangalore-Arsikere Project with the Mysore planters before a final decision is made. I think I can promise that without any Resolution being put, without any desire being expressed, the Durbar would welcome and invite the opinion of the planters before they made up their minds. It is a big business for the Durbar to decide and they are anxious to get the opinions of all interested. As I mentioned the present investigations are purely preliminary: they are being made solely with the object of deciding whether the project is worth proceeding with. It is quite possible that it may be decided that it is not worth while proceeding with. The Bombay Government consented to a preliminary investigation, on the understanding that it will leave them a free hand, absolutely without prejudice. If the result is to show that there is something in the project, the Durbar will then approach them officially and ask for their views. I can safely promise that if the time ever comes for approaching the Bombay Government, the Durbar will at the same time approach the planters, and ask them for their views, I am prepared to promise that now."

Gentlemen, I believe I am correct in stating that not only has the Durbar approached the Bombay Government on the matter but have even carried it before the Viceroy and that we planters have not in any way been approached on the subject except that an addendum to a Resolution on another Railway Project altogether which also came up before Association in 1915 was used or attempted to be used to prove that this Association was in favour of the Bhatkal Project. Comment on this is hardly necessary by me except to add that if the Mysore Durbar had shown a sincere desire to help us in the way of railway facilities, we should have been amongst the first to back them up in their natural desire for a port of their own on the West Coast.

I now place the following Resolution before you :—"This Association, after considering the report of Mr. Richards, the late Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey, is of the opinion that the Hassan-Mangalore Railway Project demands more attention and regrets that the planters' opinions have received so little consideration."

Mr. S. H. DENNIS (Bababudin) in seconding the Resolution, said :—

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.—In seconding this Resolution I should like to say that this project has been consistently supported by the Bababudin Planters' Association, and at the Annual Meeting of 1915, I seconded Mr. Hayward's Resolution. The history of this much required railway which has been asked for, for not less than 30 years, has fluctuated as the "Powers that be" looked at it from their different standpoints. At one Meeting, we were told that it was not looked favourably upon by a certain Railway Company and that they were the stumbling block, at another Meeting that every body was in favour of it and it only required the sanction of the Railway Board, then the next year the Bhatkal bomb was dropped in our midst. It was subsequent to the latter that Mr. Hayward's

Resolution was moved and withdrawn at the request of the British Resident in Mysore, who said that Mangalore had been abandoned because it would not be open to shipping at all times, and that if Bhatkal proved to be also not feasible the Mangalore-Arsekere Project would be revived. The Mysore Government may now be in possession of the reports of some of the leading engineering experts of India, and unless they are prepared to spend an enormous sum of money on breakwaters, to say nothing of the dredging they will continually have to do, Bhatkal will never be any more than Mangalore is. One can quite understand how such a project appeals to Mysore if they can get a port, and with possible visions of a navy, but it is not a sound proposition from any point of view. I do not think the Mysore Government treated us quite fairly in misconstruing Mr. Danver's Resolution after the other Resolution had been withdrawn, and proposed in connection with a different Railway Project altogether, into our supporting the Bhatkal Project in contradistinction to Mangalore; if they want an open port in Canara, the nearest they can get is, I should say, Malpe which could be linked up with Mangalore by rail.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he would like to say something in support of this Resolution as he had something to do with this projected railway for over one-sixth of its life. The Resolution regretted that the planters' opinions had received so little consideration. He thought that they must voice this opinion more loudly still and lose no opportunity of doing so. They were likely to have such a chance very shortly and he would ask the Mysore planters to make full use of it even at some inconvenience to themselves. He hoped also that the Coorg planters would be able to give the Mysore planters their support when this occasion arose.

The CHAIRMAN put the Resolution which was carried unanimously.

### **The Cochin Harbour.**

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that it was not necessary to say much in moving the Resolution which stood in his name and was seconded by Mr. Morrell. The matter had been brought before the Meeting in 1915 and was looked upon as a part of the West Coast Harbour and Railway Scheme that was absolutely necessary. The Wynaad Association had mentioned the subject in its Address to His Excellency the Governor when he visited the district in May last and His Excellency had assured them that the Madras Government was very much in favour of the project. He therefore moved the following Resolution. "That we re-affirm the Resolution passed at the 1915 Meeting and that this Association welcomes the statement of His Excellency the Governor at Meppadi that the subject of the Cochin Harbour has the support of the Madras Government."

Mr. MORRELL (West Coast) seconded the Resolution but he had nothing to add except that all realised that nothing much could be done at present.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

### **The Anamalai Ghat Roads.**

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE (Anamalais) next moved the following:— "That the attention of Government be again invited to the bad state of the main road in the Anamalais and requested to take the necessary steps to repair it and keep it in proper order.

The mover said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—Last year, Mr. Robinson, the delegate from our district, brought up the matter of our road in the Anamalais, and proposed a Resolution which was adopted. As the result of the representations made to Government by this Association, the Chief Engineer visited the district in September last, and in a letter written to the Association, as the result of his visit, admitted the road was in bad order, but gave as a reason, the difficulty of getting labour. He went on to suggest that the planters in the district should supply coolies to Government for the work. At a Meeting of my Association held in April last, it was decided that it was impossible to do this, firstly owing to the difficulty in getting sufficient labour for the Estate needs, secondly, as the class of cooly employed for Estate work was entirely unsuited for road work. However several gentlemen wishing to do all that was possible to help, offered to take up portions of the road near their Estates, if Government were prepared to grant a fair maintenance allowance, and the Honorary Secretary was requested to write and put this scheme before the D. P. W. The length of road these gentlemen were prepared to take over was about eight miles. The Chief Engineer, in his reply said, the scheme was not feasible but gave no reasons, and went on to say he feared the roads would not be kept in as good order as he would wish. You will, I feel sure, agree that this is not very satisfactory. Year by year the district is expanding, and there are now over 16,000 acres under cultivation. The whole district is dependent on the one road, and if this becomes impassable, it will be impossible to go on with Estate work or even to feed the coolies in the district. When I say that to feed the labour force maintained in the district alone, some 100 to 150 cart loads of foodstuffs have to be imported each week, you will realise how important the proper maintenance of the road is to the district. At present the surface is in an even worse condition than it was last year. A lot of excellent work has been done in the way of broadening bridges and culverts, etc., but the surface is the chief thing and little appears even to be done to improve it or even keep it in passable order. My Association asked me to again bring the matter before you, and I, therefore, propose the following Resolution:—

“That the attention of Government be again invited to the bad state of the main road in the Anamalais and be requested to take the necessary steps to repair it and keep it in proper order.”

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan) seconded the resolution and said that he had travelled up this Ghat regularly for the last five years and had seen it going steadily from bad to worse till now it was very bad.

The Honble Mr. BARBER said that he must agree with what Mr. Pinches had said. The condition of the road had not improved in the time that he had known it. He had the pleasure of the company of Mr. S. B. Murray when he visited the District to enquire into the matter. There was one length of road about three-quarters of a mile in length which was really impassable for wheeled traffic so he determined that the Chief Engineer should judge for himself the state into which a road could really get if it was left alone. So he took him over that bit in a motor car and he was really pleased when the car stuck and Mr. Murray had to get out and take a hand at pushing it (laughter). There was a little difference between the road then and the time that he took His Excellency the Governor over it on his

visit to the Anamalais. At any rate His Excellency had not to get out and push. He hoped that when this resolution was sent up it would be sent through him to the Chief Engineer.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) had pointed out that this was the only outlet of the District. There was not the slightest doubt that if anything happened to block this outlet which could not be cleared in time, there would be a famine in the District, or at least half the coolies in the District would have to be sent out to carry up food for the others. The Resolution was carried.

### Thanks to Commissioner of Coorg.

Mr. E. L. MAHON (Coorg) next moved the following:—The Coorg Planters' Association wishes to place on record its appreciation of the manner in which their Local Government has endeavoured to push forward all matters connected with the furthering of the present Railway Project into the province, in conjunction with the scheme now contemplated by the Mysore Durbar.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) seconded, and the Resolution was carried.

### Import Duty on Tea.

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) next moved the following:—“That the Government be respectfully requested to prevent the importing of all outside tea into India as the increasing Indian consumption will afford some measure of relief in the position caused by War conditions and the present restriction of exports.” In doing so Mr. FRASER said:—

As the import of outside tea into British India has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the War, under instructions from the Anamalai Planters' Association, I would ask for a few minutes of your valuable time to put some facts before you.

The imports for the first year of the War showed an increase of 1 million pounds over the previous year, and the figures of Ceylon tea for the first six months of this year are as follows:—

January	...	...	...	113,972
February	...	...	...	196,863
March	...	...	...	187,568
April	...	...	...	176,195
May	...	...	...	172,680
June	...	...	...	377,701
July	...	...	...	...
				<hr/>
				1,224,979

From these figures it is obvious that directly the shortage of tonnage made itself felt in Colombo, Ceylon's imports went up in leaps and bounds and it is for us to-day to ask for Government's assistance to check the importing of outside teas, before they assume alarming proportions. I have just been told that a consignment of Ceylon dust tea has been sold on the West Coast at As. 6 free of all cost to buyers. In April and May, 1917, South India shipped 1½ million lbs. of tea to the United Kingdom, but since then none. Our Factories, Stores and Godowns are full to overflowing and the country is glutted with tea.

Every managing agent, every shipping agent, and every Superintendent has been racking his brains for new outlets, but with scant success, and to make confusion worse confounded a neighbouring island has thought fit to utilise British India as a dumping ground for some of its superfluous produce. If ever there was a glaring case of "coals to Newcastle," this recent effort must rank as the worst. It may be argued against the Resolution that cheap tea is required to create a demand and that it would be bad policy to stop the import. The retort is obvious; if cheap tea is required, let us see to it that it comes from India and not from outside countries. In 1916, the Indian Tea Cess spent a sum of £11,000 and £3,750 up to 31st July this year, on exploiting our local markets. With these figures before us would it not be madness to look calmly on and allow the market we have been striving for to be appropriated by others?

These, Gentlemen, are to my mind the principal reasons why we should ask Government's assistance in your present predicament. We must also remember that a certain amount of high-grade green tea is imported into Karachi and Bombay, and is re-exported through Kashmir and Afghanistan. India, I understand, is not at present making enough green tea to meet this demand, and it would be bad policy to stop the trade. This obstacle can be overcome by having the tea imported and re-exported in bond—exactly in the same way as South Indian teas are sold in Colombo. You will be interested to learn that in Java there is an import duty of 2.39*d.* per pound imposed on outside tea, which shows that the Dutch Government are alive to the necessity of protecting planting interests in that island. I hope, Gentlemen, that I have put the present position of the import of outside tea into British India fairly before you, and in conclusion would ask you to have the following two facts clearly in view when you vote on the Resolution:—

1. That South India has not been able to ship any tea to the United Kingdom for the last three months, whilst our neighbours have been able to get rid of most of theirs.
2. That outside countries are beginning to use South India as a dumping ground for their superfluous tea at a time when we cannot get rid of our own.

With these two facts before you, and considering that the seriousness of the position calls for immediate action. I have pleasure in proposing the Resolution.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) in seconding the Resolution, said:—We have of late years relied to a considerable extent on Colombo as a market for our teas and as this is now to all intents and purposes closed to us and shipping from South India ports to the United Kingdom is an unknown quantity, we are faced with the problem of disposing of a large quantity of our tea in this country. Thanks to the Indian Tea Cess and the energies of the planters themselves, the local demand is increasing, but is not nearly sufficient to take our own teas, let alone other countries.

Ceylon can and does get shipping for a large proportion of its tea and the prices obtained in London enable the balance to be sold, if necessary, at a loss in this country, while we who have borne the burden and heat of the day in working up local markets are compelled to sell in many cases at a loss, or near it, just to get money to pay up



coolies and carry on. This is not a time to quarrel between ourselves as to our various markets ; Ceylon most certainly has first claim on her own in Colombo, but in all fairness to the Indian planter let him not claim this country's markets. Ceylon is fortunately placed as regards shipping and somehow or other gets it, while South India which supplies the Ceylon planter with the labour he requires to produce his crop gets no tonnage at all for his tea. Whichever way you look at it, the fact remains that tea is being shipped from Ceylon while exports from South India are *nil*. If the figures given in the *Madras Mail* are correct, 89 million lbs. were shipped this year from January 1st to July 2nd against 92 millions last year ; they are indeed well off. Taking this and the closing of the Colombo market to us, I think we are more than justified in asking that the import of all outside teas be prohibited and also in asking that there may be no delay in imposing the prohibition. This action on the part of Government would also protect us from other countries which have advantages of shipping and markets which we cannot at present reach. It is absolutely necessary if we are to carry on successfully, keep our Estates in good condition and our labour employed and contented, that we reserve our Indian markets for ourselves, where we can dispose of some of the balance tea we do not receive allotments for. Is it to the national interest that the results of our Tea Cess and our own individual efforts should be allowed to be exploited by foreign countries and by those who are now in a better position than we are to sell their produce and finance their industries?

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam) said that he thought it ought to be made clear that in preventing the importation of outside tea that Travancore and other Native States were not included in the word outside (laughter).

The CHAIRMAN said that this would be secured by leaving out the word " British " before India.

The Resolution was carried.

### **Imperial Preference.**

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) next moved the following :—" That this Association re-affirms its adherence to an Imperial Preferential Tariff for both British grown tea and coffee, particularly at this crisis, when the Dominions and the mother country are uniting to the common cause, and recommends that the Government of India be asked to agree to negotiate through the Secretary of State for the following as regards coffee :—

- (1) To permit export of 1917-18 crop to the United Kingdom.
- (2) The total prohibition of other than British grown coffee into India, East Africa, Aden, Mesopotamia, including Persia.
- (3) To prohibit the export of all coffee from the United Kingdom to countries east of Port Said.
- (4) Also for the prohibition of import of coffee other than British grown coffee into Australia, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and South Africa."

In doing so Mr. Dandison said :—

Imperial Preference is not a new subject at a U. P. A. S. I. Meeting. It was brought forward many years ago. Times have indeed changed since then, and conditions are very different now, but the need for Imperial Preference for both tea and coffee remain the same. The ordinary planter is not a politician and War conditions undoubtedly complicate matters politically, but as the imports of many commodities from our Allies and Neutrals have not only been restricted but actually prohibited from entry into England, it seems that we have a good case if we now ask that a preferential treatment of British grown teas and coffees be adopted, at any rate for the period of the War, though we would hope for its permanency, for the benefit of the Empire. That it would assist in keeping money within the Empire is undoubted, and anything that would tend to do this while fostering our industries should be encouraged. If ever there was a time in our history when it was necessary for the Dominions to support the mother country and for the mother country to help and protect the Dominions, that time is surely the present. Large stocks of foreign coffee have been imported into England, in many cases probably owned indirectly or partially by German interests, while recently some 7 million lbs. of China tea was let loose on the English market.

No doubt the British Government had very good reasons for their action in allowing this, but the fact remains that foreign teas and coffee have been allowed to be landed in England while we have not been able to realise on our produce. Money that would enable us to carry on has been diverted to foreign countries, probably to be used against us in further development of competing industries. The need for Imperial Preference for our tea and coffee grows daily. What was previously merely considered a commercial advisability is now an Imperial necessity.

Mr. MAHON (Coorg), in seconding the Resolution, said that he would like to put the following figures of the imports of coffee into some of the Colonies in 1915-16 :—

			cwts.
Australia	...	...	28,796
Aden	...	...	126,244
Straits Settlements	...	...	40,264
Ceylon	...	...	14,233
Union of South Africa	...	...	257,629

It was very obvious from these figures he said that a good deal of foreign coffee was finding its way into the Colonies.

### **Form of Contract for forward Sales of Coffee in India.**

Mr. C. H. GODFREY (North Mysore) moved the following Resolution :—"That the U.P.A.S.I. do take the necessary steps to have a legal form of contract for use in 'forward sales' of coffee in India drawn up, the draft of the same to be submitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Mahon, Congreve and Godfrey and to all Curers with a view to safeguarding the interests of producers and buyers." In doing so he said :—As the above apparently carried its own recommendation and explanation there seems little to be said in amplification thereof. I may state, however, that to many it was intensely surprising

to learn last season that there was no such form of contract in general use: the explanation given being "That forward sales in India had hitherto been of very rare occurrence" (except of course under purely local conditions): now "marching with the times" they have come, and perhaps to stay. Under the circumstances the new position must be met and that too without delay if the difficulties arising last season are not to be repeated in the coming one. With this view we trust that, guided by the legal advisers to the U. P. A. S. I., the effort of a small Sub-Committee (as suggested), working in union with the curer, seller, and agent may arrive at what is both desirable and workable. I should perhaps add, that we should look to the views and interests of the *buyers* being ascertained and co-operated through the curer, seller, and agent who are already in touch with them and indeed in some instances include them in their firms. In Committee I was asked whether the use of such forms would be compulsory, by which I believe it was meant compulsory by statutory law. Desirable as this would be I am afraid that "the neglect to use" could hardly be brought up before a Court of Law even under the guise of an insult to Dora. But from the primitive source of compulsion, the instinct of self-preservation, surely the use of the form will become "compulsory by custom." The Producer, the Agent and the Dealer unanimously availing themselves thereof as the obvious bar to all misunderstandings or defaults.

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore) seconded the Resolution. In Mangalore, the market in which the Mysore planters was interested, the system of deposit on forward contracts was not in use and without this there was always the danger of a contract being repudiated by unscrupulous persons and there was no redress other than a tedious and uncertain law suit. It was advisable that the planter should refuse to sell until an agent could arrange some form of security.

The Resolution was carried.

### **Purchase by Government of Stocks of Coffee.**

Mr. C. LAKE (South Mysore) said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The proposal I am bringing forward may seem at first sight to be on much the same lines as the Brazilian Government valorisation scheme which raised a deal of criticism some years ago but though one must approach the question with trepidation I hope to give good reason why my Resolution is worth your attention and that of Government. The reasons for our asking for interference of some kind have been repeated *ad-nauseam* at different Meetings this year and we will therefore take them as read.

The proposal I am putting before you is to the effect that Government be asked to purchase the stock remaining on hand of the 1916-17 coffee crop and in a covering letter I think the following prices might be suggested:—

Plantation coffee at Rs. 45 per cwt.
Cherry                   ,,       ,,   40       ,,

These prices were paid and indeed exceeded on the coast last year and were largely exceeded the year before. In the first place we must, perhaps, consider what the Government is to do with the small amount of coffee which we ask them to take over perhaps 1,500 to 2,000 tons. A certain amount can be used as the supplies to the Army which

must be needed, and the remainder is sure of a ready sale as soon as it can be transported to England or France. In the latter country prices are so high that even at present rates of freight and charges their profit would be large. Were our financial situation secure we should need nothing ourselves and we deliberately keep our values at a low level so that we may not be suspected of trying to pass off an expected loss on to Government. Cash is what we need, not profiteering. A good ground for giving us special consideration is, that for reasons which have never been fully explained, though it is now hinted that they were of a political nature, a large amount of coffee from a friendly foreign country although shipped after 23rd February has been admitted into England, without demur. Our coffee on the other hand has been in a large measure debarred from our usual markets in England and France, either by prohibition or by refusal of tonnage for the amounts nominally permitted. I have not made any proposals as regards the 1917-18 crop for before that must be sold I hope to see either proper financial arrangements or such amelioration of present troubles that we can arrange for ourselves. Let Government guarantee our old stocks from being sacrificed to a gang of profiteers such as I believe already exists on the West Coast (I refer of course of Indian buyers only) and we may be able to help ourselves in future. If this stock is removed from sight our position will be very much stronger. I beg to propose therefore "That the Government of India be approached with a view to their purchasing the stock of coffee now remaining in the country if tonnage is not available."

Mr. E. L. MAHON (Coorg), in seconding the Resolution, thought that they ought to realise better prices than Mr. Lake quoted. He thought that they ought to hold out for an average of Rs. 50 per cwt. all round.

The Resolution was carried.

### **Restrictions on the Export of Coffee.**

On this subject Mr. Congreve (Anamalais) said :

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Whilst the country is passing through a crisis, demanding the strictest economy in the use of tonnage, coffee planters feel diffidence in urging special consideration in this direction.

At the same time, it must be admitted that our case is not on all fours with other cultivation in this country. In the case of annual crops, cultivation can be reduced with little more than a temporary loss of profits and a large acreage now under crops for export, such as ground-nut can be utilised for food crops for consumption in the country.

Coffee as an industry is chiefly in the hands of small private owners, both European and Indian, the whole of whose capital is invested in their Estates, and who are entirely dependent on the sale of their crops. In this respect tea and rubber are in a much better position. I think I am correct in saying that the greater part is owned and worked by companies, the capital of which is distributed over a large number of shareholders, in the form of investment. If shipping facilities are not arranged for, it will be impossible to maintain the present coffee cultivation, a large number of coolies will be thrown out of employment, and in a very short time Estates will deteriorate, to such an extent as to render them unproductive. Most of us know what happens when an Estate is abandoned for any length of time.

The position as regards last year's crop is as follows: Free shipment to the United Kingdom was restricted in February and after a great deal of delay and uncertainty, the Home Government agreed to permit entry into the United Kingdom of 6,150 tons. Of this quantity 3,300 tons has been shipped leaving a balance of 2,850 tons to be shipped. This quantity is now lying in Coimbatore and on the West Coast. Needless to remark quality is not improving. Under the instructions of the Shipping Controller received in May, the Indian Liners' Conference refuse to book coffee in any steamer. The position is unchanged, in spite of the fact that representations have been made at Home. Seeing that the Home Government have specially licensed the import of 6 150 tons, we can reasonably ask for tonnage for the whole of this quantity.

Now we come to the question of what is going to happen to this year's crop, the harvest of which will commence in October. Unless shipments to the United Kingdom and France are permitted the position will be very much more serious than it is at present. It is reckoned that in an ordinary year the local demand absorbs about 25 per cent. of the total crop, but even if we succeed in placing this percentage of our crop in the country the proceeds thereof will be quite inadequate for the purpose of meeting Estate expenditure, even if cut to an absolute minimum. Further, unless export can be arranged for, it is likely that prices in this country will fall to an abnormally low level as we shall be left at the mercy of the very few buyers there are. I therefore beg to move the following Resolution: "That this Association draw the attention of the Madras Government to the fact that out of the quantity of 6,150 tons of coffee licensed for entry into the United Kingdom, space has been provided for 3,300 only; that to all intents, and purposes a complete embargo on coffee shipment exists at present and requests Government to arrange with the Shipping Controller for space for the balance of last year's crop up to the licensed quantity, and that application be made for a further license to import the whole or part of this year's crop."

Mr. MAHON (Coorg) seconded the Resolution which was carried.

### **Land Tenure in Mysore.**

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore) said:—My Association has asked me to bring up this question—Land Tenure and Title-deeds and I propose the following Resolution:—

"That this Association do strongly support the Mysore Coffee Planters in their representations to the Mysore Durbar, *re*

(1) The hardships of the Durbar's ruling in the question of granting lands on permanent tenure.

(2) The difficulties of getting title-deeds for lands purchased from Indian holders.

(3) The hardship of paying back assessment in *one* sum at As. 8 per acre per annum on lands originally granted on 30 years' tenure which owners now desire to transfer to permanent tenure."

As regards this I may add an explanation. Even if we had only acquired land on temporary tenure a few years before the end of the

first 30 years we still had to pay up the full amount of difference since 1881. The Mysore Durbar Order R. No. 4693—703/L. R. 330/11/4, dated Bangalore, 18th November, 1916, reads as follows:—

1. The acreage settlement of coffee land effected under Government Order No. 3662/70, dated 2nd August, 1881, offered to the planters the option of paying either a fixed permanent acreage assessment of Re. 1-8-0 on their Estates or holding them under temporary tenure for the usual term of 30 years on an assessment of Re. 1 an acre subject to revision at the end of that period.

2. Subsequently, in Government Order No. (Camp) 1125/8, dated the 22nd September, 1885, the holders of lands settled on temporary tenure were permitted to have the same converted into permanent tenure on payment of the difference between the two rates of assessments, *viz.* As 8 per acre from the date of the original settlement (1881-82) to the date of application, partial remission of the difference in specially hard cases are also provided for.

3. The term of the original settlement of holdings on the temporary tenure having expired, the South Mysore Planters' Association have requested that the terms on which tenure of these lands would be renewed may be announced, and the levy of the arrears of assessment of previous years under the Government Order of 22nd September, 1885 waived in the case of those holders who wish to have the tenure of their lands converted from temporary into permanent.

4. On a careful consideration of the subject in consultation with the Heads of the Survey and the Revenue Departments the Government have arrived at the conclusion that it is inexpedient to grant fresh lands on permanent tenure hereafter, and that the conversion of the existing temporary tenure into permanent, should be subject strictly to the terms of the Government Order of the 22nd September, 1885, referred to in paragraph 2 above. The existing concessions attached to permanent tenure will hold good in all respects.

Until a short time ago there were no difficulties, for about two years ago I myself purchased a small block of 30 acres on permanent tenure.

Without fixity of tenure we cannot get Title Deeds which will be accepted as security for mortgages in England, even for the matter of that in Madras, which means that the title is not considered good.

The Government ruling means therefore that we are debarred from having any property purchased from them in the future accepted as tangible security for a loan.

In a progressive country like Mysore one would have thought that settlers would have been encouraged to come in and invest money. This they are not likely to do unless the land policy offers better facilities than now.

Many difficulties are put in the way when we ask for Title Deeds for lands acquired in small blocks from Indians; we are told that we must wait until the re-survey is made. This re-survey was started I think five years ago but presumably on account of the War nothing has been done for a year or more. We are told that Government is against the granting of new Title Deeds. I understand that in some cases there have been delays of two years or even more.

I have spoken of the two tenures on which we hold lands. The temporary tenure could be converted into permanent by paying up difference in the assessment for the number of years since the rendi-

tion. It is now 35 years since that, which means a payment of Rs. 17-8-0 per acre on all land that is to be put on permanent tenure. I think the Mysore Durbar in cases where owners do not care to face a single payment should be approached with a view to getting assessment increased to Rs. 2 for a second period of 30 years when it would automatically come under fixed tenure on a permanent basis at Re. 1-8-0 per acre. Many men would no doubt prefer to pay up the whole amount at once and be done with it, but I think there are many large owners among the Indian community any way who would be glad to accept my proposal.

I understand the "Transfer of Property Act" is likely to be introduced into Mysore which makes the question of titles and revenue very urgent.

The planters of Mysore have always been loyal to their obligations, they have been law abiding and have done a great deal for the good of the country, and I think they have every right to go to Government with a demand for *special* treatment; this we are not doing, we are simply asking for the rights of citizens who want to make a living without harming any one and who incidentally help the prosperity of the State.

Mr. GODFREY (North Mysore) seconded the Resolution which was carried.

#### ACT XIII OF 1859.

Mr. C. R. T. CONGREVE (Anamalais) next moved the following:—

"The U. P. A. S. I. strongly protests against the question of amending Act XIII being brought up at a time when owing to the War the Planting Industry is already being handicapped, but considers that as advances cannot be abolished, a penal law is necessary in those cases where the persons advanced have no property and little scruple in evading contracted obligations and no difficulty in evading them. It is, therefore, of opinion that Act XIII is necessary and that punishment by imprisonment for disobedience of the orders of the Court should be retained. It has no knowledge of any abuse of the Act on the part of managers of Estates or their maistries, but to avoid abuse of its provisions by petty landlords and others, if such occur, considers that the Act might be amended:—(1) that cognisance shall not be taken of any contract that is not in writing, (2) or for a period exceeding one year, (3) and that repayment of the amount due should stay any proceedings taken by a Court under the Act."

Mr. CONGREVE made the following speech in moving the Resolution:—

With reference to Act XIII of 1859 by a U. P. A. Circular No. 41/17, we were informed that Government wished to have the views of the United Planters' Association of Southern India in detail as regards the necessity for the Act, the manner in which it is administered, and the best methods of avoiding abuse of its provisions.

I think those districts, which are not working under Act I of 1903, will agree that Act XIII is absolutely necessary. That the penal clauses must be retained, as advances are essential, in order that the cooly or the maistry may leave some money with his relatives in his village, also to meet the cost of his journey to the Estates. We cannot do away with advances and where advances have to be given to maistries and coolies, who have no property, punishment by imprisonment is necessary. A large number of maistries coming from the Coimbatore and Malabar districts are men with no property at all, but many

of them make satisfactory labour suppliers. The working of Act XIII by which a Magistrate has the power to order defaulters to carry out the contract they have entered into, giving them reasonable time to obey the order, helps in a large majority of cases to a settlement without imprisonment becoming necessary.

During 1916-17, 550 cases under Act XIII were entertained by the Pollachi Magistrate. In the same period only seven instances of imprisonment were recorded. But the figures for Coorg are still more striking. Of the 7,364 cases brought before the Courts, during the five years ending the 31st December, 1916, only 171 orders for imprisonment were passed. This shows how well the Penal Clauses Act acts as a deterrent.

The Labour Department during the three years it has been working has had no cases of abuse on the part of planters and maistries brought to its notice, although small abuses may occur on the part of petty landholders.

Mr. R. LESCHER (West Coast) seconded, and the Resolution was carried.

### **An Explanation.**

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., thanked the Meeting for allowing him to say a few words on a rather important subject. The Chairman in his opening Address was he thought a little unfair to the Government of Madras in so far as he implied that over the schemes for the planters' Mycologist and the Agricultural Stations, the Government were blowing both hot and cold. This was not the case and he would like to put the facts before the Meeting. Recently, it has been suggested that owing to financial troubles and restrictions on exports, the planters might wish to conserve their funds and mark time with the schemes. He was told to ascertain the planters wishes in the matter and he understood that there was no such intention on their part, on the other hand, they wanted to push on with the preliminary work and not to delay the schemes. Consequently, this was done, but owing to the War progress was a little slow. The proposal was received during the year and the Government of Madras were allowed to provide a certain proportion of the funds; but the whole scheme had gone to the Secretary of State for sanction. They had been doing their best to arrange for a Mycologist in India during the year, but they had not been successful and steps had been taken to try and get one at Home. But here again, owing to the War it was difficult to find anybody and even if they did get one, at the present moment it was very doubtful if he would be allowed to leave the country. Finally, he would like to take this opportunity of thanking the U. P. A. S. I. for giving him this chance of getting into touch with planting questions. He much regretted that last year he was prevented by pressure of work from making a tour of the planting districts. He had fully intended to and had got so far as making arrangement with Mr. Anstead, but unfortunately he was forced to put it off.

The CHAIRMAN moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Stuart for attending the Meeting and giving them the benefit of his advice and experience. He thought that they might congratulate themselves that Mr. Chadwick's mantle had fallen on so able and whole-hearted a friend of planting interests.

The Meeting then adjourned till the afternoon.



*Fifth day, Friday, 24th August, 1917.*

### **FINAL SESSION.**

The delegates met for the last time at 2 P.M. when the following business was transacted:—

#### **Shipping Freights and Tariff.**

Mr. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam) speaking on this subject said—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, that we are experiencing great difficulty in exporting our produce is a matter about which there can unfortunately be no dispute. Therefore when we read in the papers recently that Mr. Montagu had said in Parliament that the question of the export of tea and rubber from Tuticorin and the Malabar Ports had not been brought before the Government of India, we were extremely surprised and more than a little angry. As you know, when we were in Committee, I gave notice of a Resolution blaming the Government of Madras for neglecting our interest; but after talking the matter over with you, Mr. Chairman, and the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, and after reading all the correspondence you were able to show me I had to admit, and I do so again with pleasure, that the Government of Madras had been working hard for us. In view then of what Mr. Montagu said, it would appear that the Government of India is to blame for the present state of our affairs. If it is necessary for the safety of the Empire as an aid to beating the Germans to stop all export of our produce, we will not complain, but at present we are all under the impression that we are not receiving the same treatment as is given to North India and Ceylon and I therefore propose:

“That though this Association is aware that the statement recently made in Parliament by Mr. Montagu as to the question of export of tea and rubber from Tuticorin and Malabar Ports not having been put before the Government of India does not appear to be in accordance with actual facts and though it appreciates the efforts made by the Government of Madras on behalf of the planting community it is of opinion that the interests of the community cannot be receiving the attention they deserve from the Government of India and the Ministry of Shipping, and respectfully requests the Government of Madras to receive a deputation at a very early date from the United Planters' Association of Southern India with reference to tonnage from Madras, Tuticorin and Malabar Ports, for tea, coffee and rubber to the United Kingdom.” (Cheers).

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) seconded the Resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he was very glad to hear Mr. Murphy's Resolution and the way in which it had been received by the Meeting. He thought from what Mr. Murphy had said and from his own knowledge that what had been said about the Madras Government was not understood. Mr. Murphy had pointed out that both North India and Ceylon had received better treatment than South

India. Personally he believed that this was the case. If the Conference was called by the Government of Madras, he would impress upon them to put their case forward not in vague and general terms but with definite facts and figures.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he would like to point out that during the last three months South India had not been allowed to ship any tea at all while Calcutta was complaining that it was only allowed to ship 8 million lbs. a month. That however was better than nothing. Somebody had said that Ceylon had shipped 89 million lbs. altogether since the prohibition had come in against 92 millions before. That certainly was also better than nothing. So far as tea was concerned therefore, they could establish their point very easily. He had been asked to amplify the statement made about Ceylon having shipped 89 million lbs. of tea against 92 million lbs. These were the total shipment he ought to have said that Ceylon had shipped to all parts. There had been a shipment of 50,000 to the Colonies from Madras. He repeated his remark therefore that 8 million lbs. a month was better than 50,000 lbs. They had been promised 1,100,000 lbs. a month by the Government of Madras. He hoped that the Government of Madras would be allowed to live up to its promise; even that amount would be of some help.

The CHAIRMAN thought that in representing the matter to Government they should not represent it in an unfair way; because they must remember that in South India they had shipped a considerable amount to America. He did not think that it would be correct to say that they had shipped no tea at all, because they had.

Mr. ABBOTT.—I thought the whole question was one of shipments to the United Kingdom. That is what Mr. Murphy was alluding to and that was what he meant.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—With the Chairman's permission I should like to ask does the wording of the Resolution indicate that it applies only to shipment to the United Kingdom.

Mr. MURPHY.—Mr. Montagu's statement applies only to the United Kingdom.

Mr. H. L. PINCHES: I think the Resolution should refer only to the United Kingdom.

Mr. MURPHY.—I am quite prepared to make an addition to my Resolution of words to that effect.

The words "To the United Kingdom" were accordingly added at the end of the Resolution which was then put to the vote and carried.

### **The British Empire Producers' Organization.**

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore) in speaking to this subject said: I have been asked to speak on the subject of the British Empire Producers' Organization which, I think, we are all agreed is a very useful body and one to which we as an Association should belong.

It has already taken up matters with reference to shipping and our thanks are due for its efforts on our behalf.

I brought up the subject of stronger representation in London when I acted as your representative at the Rubber Exhibition in 1911 and had considerable correspondence on the matter with our Secretary and Home Agents at that time.

Our funds at that time were not in a very strong position and the subject was not taken up at our Annual Meeting on the score of our inability to meet the expense. It may be argued that if it had to be given up then on the score of expense this is not the time to re-open the subject.

In my opinion, however, we have been pennywise and pound-foolish in this matter and if better representation was necessary then, which was the unanimous opinion of the Home Agents, it is very much more urgent at the present moment when we are faced with all sorts of difficulties as regards finance, shipping, etc.

The British Empire Producers' Organization might meet the case if we can form a South Indian Branch of this, but personally I should prefer to see a London South Indian Association formed and that that body should be a member of the British Empire Producers' Organization.

For instance should we be able to put forward a scheme for Government assistance which we may be in need of it would mean in my own case at least three long and expensive cables to my different interests to place the matter before them, whereas, if we had an Association in London one cable to the Secretary would be sufficient. It would be circulated amongst all our interests and any further suggestions cabled out to the U. P. A. and the matter would be settled without the present vexatious delays in getting replies from each individual Company or Proprietor and a hundred and one different suggestions which it is quite impossible to harmonise and only lead to needless and unnecessary correspondence.

Now, as regards the formation of an Association in London—in pre-War times it would have been a simple matter to have got some Home Firm to have put one of their assistants on to act as Secretary for a small yearly remuneration. I doubt, however, if this is possible under the present circumstances as everyone is working so short-handed, and it may be necessary to employ a special man for the work but this we can safely leave in the hands of our Committee at Home with a recommendation to employ a disabled man from the front and preferably a planter if one is available.

Our first step here would be to ask a few gentlemen at Home or firms interested to take the matter up without delay.

I would also suggest that the subscription necessary to run the Association be paid at Home by Agents or Secretaries of our various Companies and Proprietors.

These, Gentlemen, are the rough outlines of my proposal and I should like to have the views of others on the subject. I beg to propose the following Resolution:—

“That this Association recommends the formation of a London South Indian Association affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. to look after our interests at Home and that the following gentlemen be asked to form themselves into a Committee to organise the scheme with power to add to their number: Messrs. H. M. Knight, G. L. Acworth, Geo. Romilly, O. A. Bannatine, H. P. Hodgson and Brooke Mockett.

Mr. McARTHUR (Central Travancore).—I have great pleasure in seconding this Resolution, as I think it is most important and very necessary in these times to have some body to which matters such as Mr. Richardson has mentioned could be referred.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad).—Is there any statement of the cost ?

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad).—Is it understood that the Estates pay for this or the U. P. A. S. I. ?

Mr. RICHARDSON.—I would propose that the subscription be paid at Home by our Agents.

The CHAIRMAN put the Resolution which was carried.

### **The Indian Trade Commissioner.**

Mr. F. M. HAMILTON (South Mysore) in opening this subject said :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I think it is most important that we should get into communication with and keep in with the Indian Trade Commissioner, seeing how inevitable it is that the Trade of the World will be upset temporarily and possibly changed permanently by this awful War, it now behoves us to be very careful that no opportunity of obtaining information or insight into future developments passes us by. I do not wish to lay down the lines on which all our products can be fully represented to the Commissioner, but we have in the U. P. A. a body with common interests and one able and willing I know to write on behalf of all interests. In this matter no doubt each branch may eventually require separate assistance, but preliminary action can be taken covering all our products. Some years ago mild hopes were raised by the constitution of a body with a huge building and some staff under the ambitious title of the Imperial Institute. Probably many of you have been to the building and been shown round by the very courteous Director. The aspirations of the Institute were ambitious and it might do a very great deal more than it has yet done but perhaps in the future we shall see great developments. The Trade Commissioner for India is quite a new departure and he should be fully equipped with all things necessary for his journey and should be kept supplied with all the necessary supplies of knowledge to help him. Suggestions have been made in Calcutta that the Commissioner shall take up the question of imports into India. This should surely be the work of a separate Commissioner in India. Should we not at once do what we can to guide the thoughts of the Trade Commissioner entirely to the Export Trade of India and principally, of course to those important branches in which we all ourselves are interested. I have much pleasure in proposing :

“That it is advisable to at once enter into correspondence with the Indian Trade Commissioner in England with a view to securing his assistance in developing our industries now and after the end of the War.”

Mr. B. MALCOLM (Wynaad) in seconding the Resolution said that it was very appropriate that this Association should get into and keep close touch with the Indian Trade Commissioner who was their old friend Mr. Chadwick. When he heard that Mr. Chadwick was not

returning to India, but was becoming head of an important department at Home, he felt sure that the feeling of depression he experienced was felt by others over the loss of the services of so capable a friend and adviser who was so entirely in sympathy with planters and their interests. (Cheers). He did not think it would be out of place on their part to congratulate Mr. Chadwick on his appointment and also to congratulate themselves also on the fact that they had at headquarters one who was completely in sympathy with them and was moreover a personal friend known to many of them.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said, in connection with this Resolution, that two or three days before he left to attend this Meeting the book containing Mr. Chadwick's report had been sent to him with a request from the Government of Madras that it might be put before this Meeting so that Government could be favoured with the views of the Association, not on the whole report, but on Chapter 4 and the appendix to Chapter 4. The appendix was interesting as it gave the import into Russia from India. He would be glad as soon as possible to be favoured through the Secretary with their views on this portion of the Report.

The Resolution was then unanimously carried.

### **Fire Insurance on Tea Factories.**

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he had explained his reasons for bringing this Resolution in the Committee stage of the proceedings and he had nothing more to say on the subject except that in Ceylon the tariff for fire insurance on tea factories showed that in India they suffered by having to pay 50 per cent. more on a risk. What was considered a first-class risk in Ceylon was only considered a second-class risk in India. They had therefore to pay a great deal more in India than they had to in Ceylon. It was quite incomprehensible why this should be so; but he had been told that it had something to do with the cotton fires in Bombay. The consequence was that they were penalised in India as if they were under the suspicion of being given to incendiarism. He quoted again the difference in the class of buildings in Ceylon and in India. The latter he said sounded rather like the description of a castle or a German dug-out about which they had been hearing on the western front. It was he thought beyond the financial capacity of most Estates to build factories of the description of what was held to be a first-class risk in India. The result was that they had to accept a second-class risk and in consequence some Estates were paying a rupee or Re. 1½ per cent. for the insurance of their factories against what would be a As. 12 risk in Ceylon.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) seconded the Resolution which was carried unanimously.

### **The Planters' War Fund.**

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam) moved the following Resolution: "That this fund be again brought to the notice of our men in His Majesty's Forces." He said in doing so that he knew that circulars had been sent out and that some of them had gone to men in the trenches. But these men had nowhere to keep such papers and had probably forgotten all about the matter. He thought also that information should be published in the *Chronicle*, without mentioning the names of those

from whom applications had been received, and the number of refusals and the reasons why the applications had been refused. He knew of planters who had promised subscriptions during the duration of the War who had not paid up. They should be asked to pay. One man had promised to give Rs. 300 in two instalments; he had paid Rs. 150, but had refused to pay the balance because no money had been paid out of the fund. That was entirely wrong. It was true that no man had been disabled for life; though many had laid down their lives for the Empire. But they were not far from the end of the War when they would be having claims from men who had been blinded or crippled for life and by the time they started these men in life again they would find that the money that had hitherto been collected would be only too little for the work they would have to do.

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad) seconded the Resolution and was in entire agreement with what Mr. Murphy had said, which he said ought to be taken to heart. He did not think that everyone who could subscribe was subscribing, it might be owing to the fact that they thought that their subscription would be considered too small. That was a mistaken view to take. Small subscriptions it should be remembered would help to make up a big amount.

Mr. MURPHY said he noticed that Messrs. Volkart Brothers, had sent in Rs. 2,000 making their subscription Rs. 4,000. He thought that they might ask all planters to get their agents to subscribe.

The CHAIRMAN.—I may say that Messrs. Volkart Brothers recognise what the Fund really is for and have doubled their subscription. I think that anybody who can double their subscription should do so.

The CHAIRMAN then put the Resolution which was carried at once.

### **Increasing the Secretarial Staff.**

The CHAIRMAN put the following Resolution from the Chair:

“That the matter of increasing the Secretarial staff be considered during the year.” Not only was the work becoming more important, he said, but it was increasing in volume, and the need for an increase in the Secretarial staff was daily growing more apparent. It was a matter that should be seriously considered during the coming year.

### **The Location of the Office.**

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam) proposed: “That the question of moving the offices of this Association to Madras be considered by District Associations during the current year.” He did not think it necessary to enumerate the many reasons why they should have their office in the chief Presidency town. They could not do anything now, but they might consider the matter.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad).—I will second the Resolution merely as a matter for consideration.

### **Financing Planting Industries.**

Mr. R. AINSWORTH (Wynaad): Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Resolution which stands in my name for submission to this Meeting and which Mr. Abbott has kindly consented to second deals with a matter upon which our very existence depends. I am to speak on the financial problem confronting us, which will have to be

solved in the near future if we are to carry on over the period of depression in our Planting Industries which looms ahead, and which is likely to last until the end of the War. In my remarks at the Committee Meeting on Tuesday I reviewed the exchange position briefly from the time, only eight months ago, when the Secretary of State suddenly reduced the weekly sales of Council Bills from an unlimited amount to 120 lakhs per week. I pointed out that up to December, 1916, exports from India could be financed to any extent, and that at that time the export industries of India were doing well, notwithstanding the shortage of tonnage, which was then, of course, not so acute. It is mainly upon Council Bills that the Exchange Banks depend for the Funds with which to buy our drafts, and bearing in mind the recent further reduction in the sale of these Bills to ninety lakhs per week, a sum which will do very little more than finance exports of wheat, hides and other commodities on Government account, it seems extremely likely that at no distant period the Exchange Banks will be unable to take up all the Estate Bills offered to them. It was in anticipation of this happening that the Madras Finance Meeting was convened. This Meeting, which was held in Madras, was fully representative of all the planting interests concerned and passed unanimously the following Resolutions which I proposed : " That in view of the serious warning given by the Exchange Banks of a more acute financial stringency, this Meeting asks Government to take action with a view to relieving the situation.

We suggest that

- (1) The Council Bill allotment should be raised above Rs. 120 lakhs per week ; or
- (2) A certain amount of Council Bills should be ear-marked for Estate requirements ; or
- (3) Government should make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills ; and
- (4) Re. 1 and Rs. 2 notes should be issued at once."

I should like to say here that it is to the third proposal, that suggesting Government assistance to Exchange Banks, that I shall confine my remarks from now. The Madras Meeting appointed a Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, Messrs. Browne and Richardson and myself with the following terms of reference :

" That a Committee be formed to go carefully into the necessary Estate requirements and be empowered to interview the Banks as to how far they can meet the situation ; and any other subject in this connection."

The report of this Committee was published at the beginning of July, and will no doubt have been read by all the delegates present. Briefly, the Committee interviewed Mr. Black, of the National Bank, and his views on the third proposal prove that the suggestion of Government assistance to Exchange Banks would, if adopted, adequately meet the case, and would further cause the minimum amount of trouble to all concerned, inasmuch as the planter would receive his assistance by the channel through which, in the majority of cases, his financial arrangements are usually conducted. I am keeping in mind the case of the planter who normally finances his Estate in other ways, and will refer later to this point. At the Madras Meeting, different figures were given of the total amount required to finance

the tea, coffee and rubber industries of South India. The figure I mentioned was Rs. 8 lakhs per week, of which Rs. 6 lakhs covered tea and rubber. The Hon'ble Mr. Barber gave the total for tea, coffee, rubber, etc., as Rs. 4 lakhs. In the Madras Committee's Report, Rs. 5 lakhs per week for the whole industry was mentioned as the minimum. Subsequent revision of my figure showed Rs. 8 lakhs to be on the high side, a more accurate figure being about Rs. 4 lakhs per week for tea and rubber, not including coffee. The difference between Mr. Barber's figures and mine appears to be the cause of the inquiry instituted by the U. P. A. S. I. as to the actual requirements of each Estate. Mr. Richardson stated on Tuesday that information in this manner had been asked for by Government in their reply to the letter from the U. P. A. S. I. forwarding the Madras Committee's Proceedings and Report of the Madras Finance Meeting. A statement to this effect might have been issued along with the financial inquiry forms sent out by the U. P. A. S. I. The form itself does not appear to have met with universal approval judging from the discussion about it on Tuesday. However, Mr. Malcolm is placing a Resolution on the matter before you to-day, and I trust that his Resolution will be passed. It must be remembered, of course, that when the information has been obtained, the total of the financial requirements will not represent the amount of assistance required. In the case of those dealing with the Exchange Banks, this will be difference between the amount the Banks can provide themselves out of the Exchange available and the total amount of Estate Bills offered to them. From what Mr. Barber informed us on Tuesday, Government have not expressed their views on the Madras proposal No. 3, the one suggesting Government assistance to Exchange Banks, pending the result of the financial inquiry instituted by the U. P. A. S. I., which I trust will be speedily completed in the event of your adopting Mr. Malcolm's Resolution. This is at variance with a statement in the last paragraph under the heading of "Financing Planting Industries" of the Chairman's Address on Monday. This statement reads as follows :—

"The Government of Madras are evidently unable to fall in with the suggestions put before them by the Madras Meeting, and any assistance that can be given will have to be either direct from Government to planters or through the Presidency Banks."

Now, I am at a loss to understand this statement, as the conclusions embodied therein cannot be deduced from the correspondence which has been placed before us. I will now read an extract from the letter from the Government of Madras which is quoted in the Chairman's speech immediately before the paragraph I have just mentioned, as follows :—

"I am directed to inform you that the Resolution passed at the Meeting held in Madras on the 30th May, 1917, has been communicated to the Government of India, and that this Government have been in correspondence with the Bank of Madras with a view to ascertain the extent to which the Banks can render assistance."

The correspondence referred to took place in June, and has been regarded as confidential, but I have been informed by Mr. Nicolls that it may now be referred to in open Meeting, and I will accordingly quote the following telegram sent by Sir Bernard Hunter to Govern-



ment on the 25th June, in reply to their telegram of the same date regarding the present financial position of the Planting Industry :

"Planters rough estimate of requirements eight lakhs weekly. Exchange Banks unable to guarantee purchase of planters' bills to large extent owing to uncertainty of Council allotments and requirement for War Office Bills. Believe so far all necessary finance has been met. Bank of Madras hope to lend assistance when loan operations completed.—Hunter."

In the letter confirming this telegram Sir Bernard Hunter writes :

"With regard to the assistance Government may find it necessary to give the planters in my opinion the best way such advances could be controlled would be to insist on all planters and companies requiring Government help to form themselves into a Co-operative Society so that each one will be liable for the loans to others. In this way demands will be kept down to the minimum and undesirable borrowers eliminated. Government could then advance to the Co-operative Society direct or through the Banks."

The merits of this proposal I am unable to see. Although it is put forward by Sir Bernard Hunter, it is an unsound scheme, but it is one to which Government are likely to give favourable consideration, inasmuch as it comes from the Head of the Presidency Bank and I strongly recommend this Meeting to show their disapproval of the Co-operative Society Scheme, in which each planter who joins it will be liable for the loans to others, by accepting the Resolution which I am about to propose. I would like to point out that Sir Bernard Hunter's telegram to Government is dated 25th June. The report of the Madras Meeting and the Proceedings of the Finance Committee were forwarded to Government by the U. P. A. S. I. on the 27th June, so that Government's reference to the Bank of Madras was made before they had received those reports from the U. P. A. S. I. I will now refer to the position of the planter who has been accustomed to finance his Estate otherwise than through the Exchange Banks, or who is not in a position to deal with them. He will require assistance, and this assistance must be provided for him, in the shape of loans either direct from Government or from the Presidency Bank. It does not follow, however, that because certain planters receive assistance in this manner, the same procedure must necessarily be adopted in the case of those who wish to continue their existing connection with the Exchange Banks. I trust I have made my points clear to the Meeting. My reason for asking this Meeting to re-affirm the third Resolution passed at the Madras Meeting is simply that Government have Sir Bernard Hunter's Co-operative Society Scheme before them, which I do not think any delegate approves of. I now wish to ask the Chairman if I may make an alteration in the latter part of my Resolution. The original Resolution reads :

"That this Meeting urges Government to adopt the third Resolution passed at the Madras Finance Meeting, reading 'That Government should make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills' and further request Government to arrange for financial assistance for such Estates as do not desire to receive that assistance through the Banks."

I wish to amplify the concluding portion, when my Resolution will read as follows:—

“ That this Meeting urges Government to adopt the third Resolution passed at the Madras Finance Meeting, reading: ‘ That Government should make advance to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills ’ and further requests Government to provide financial assistance either in the shape of direct loans or loans through the Presidency Bank for those planters who have hitherto financed their Estates otherwise than through the Banks, or who are unable to or do not desire to deal with the Exchange Banks.”

This Resolution is worded somewhat differently from the one which I handed in at the Committee Meeting, on Tuesday, as the result of conversations with several delegates who considered that my original Resolution was not sufficiently wide in its application. However, the Resolution as placed before you now takes into account the case of every planter who is likely to require financial assistance, and I would urge the Meeting to hasten it forward by a unanimous vote.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) seconded the Resolution. He had nothing to add to what had been so well said by Mr. Ainsworth, but hope that the Resolution would be adopted. He was not a financial expert, but the Resolution seemed to him only to ask that they should be allowed to have their own money out from England on their own credit which was better than having to be guaranteed by a fellow-planter. He had some experience in the Allotment Committee of guaranteeing a fellow-planter's assessment of his crops.

Permission was then given to modify the Resolution as Mr. Ainsworth had done.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that delegates would see that the Resolution now before the Meeting was considerably modified from that which had been put before in Committee on Tuesday last. He was very glad that this was the case. He regretted that the discussion in Committee took quite the turn it did; but he thought that Mr. Ainsworth would agree that it had tended to clear the air and had led to a better understanding among all present. Mr. Ainsworth had referred to the Madras Meeting. Those present at that Meeting would remember that they had a long discussion on the first day and besides other speakers there was Mr. Newmarch, the Accountant-General of Madras, representing the Government of India. On that day he expressed the opinion not definitely but none the less clearly what would and what would not be accepted by putting their proposals before the Government. Further he ought to add that it was then stated that the most definite information—not the ordinary loose sort of information, but definite information—must be given. This was emphasised by Sir Bernard Hunter speaking at the Meeting. On the second day, in view of what Mr. Newmarch had told them the previous day the discussion took a turn which he thought was really of little more use than a debating society discussion. It seemed to point to no practical method. That was how it struck him at the time and on consideration at the after Meeting when he was appointed a Member of the Committee, he became more convinced that this was the case. Mr. Ainsworth had described how they went to the National Bank of India and the conversation that took place there.

That had been published in the report of the Committee. Since that Meeting matters had progressed to a great extent; they had received two very important letters from the Government asking for definite information. In the present Resolution of Mr. Ainsworth he saw no mention made of this point which to his mind, as far as they were all concerned, was by far the most important question before them. He was glad as he had already said that Mr. Ainsworth had modified the Resolution he had moved in Committee. He saw nothing objectionable in the Resolution now; but, all the same, he thought that it would be a pity to accept the Resolution as it stood. There might be an impression that this matter had not been put before the Government as soon as it might have been and he thought it might be said that there had been considerable delay in putting the matter forward through the ordinary channels on the part of the Secretary, the Chairman and himself. He would like to point out however that one officer of the Government, besides Mr. Newmarch, was present at the Meeting at the request of the Government of Madras, and it was only reasonable to suppose that these two gentlemen did send their reports to the Government of Madras who were not without knowledge of what was required by their Meeting held in Madras. That was borne out by the fact that Sir Bernard Hunter's letter was dated two days prior to the date on which their letter was sent to Government. Mr. Ainsworth had rightly emphasised the point that a man who did not deal through the Exchange Banks would be provided for if the Government or Madras gave effect to this Resolution. He was not a good financier but he had heard a lot about Exchange and the balance of trade which he did not understand until he had reduced several points to an absurdity. The position as it had been put was this that as long as they had gold in England and produce on it may be shipped Home, the Exchange Banks could finance any bills that were placed before them. As he had said on Monday and Tuesday it was difficult to dissociate the question of financing their industry from the question of the shortage of tonnage and of freights. They hoped that the steps taken by their friends in this country and at Home to insure further tonnage would relieve the situation. On the other hand they ought to contemplate the position from the other point of view, namely, that the situation might not be relieved. If this was the case, produce would accumulate in this country as it could not be shipped. And as produce accumulated in this country so the amount of gold at Home would be gradually reduced as the Banks bought their bills against whatever produce was at Home. Meanwhile no further produce was reaching the other side of the world. If they were reduced to that the whole thing would be absurd. All produce would remain in India because none could be exported and the gold that they had at Home would be gradually used up until at last there would be none left. Then the Exchange Banks could not be called upon to effect exchange for them. He thought that must be the case. To put it in another way, as the amount of exports were reduced the burden thrown on Exchange Banks to purchase bill would be reduced also. If this were so it was obvious to anyone that more and more of them would come under the heading which was designed to provide financial assistance either in the shape of direct loans or loans through the Presidency Bank. When they held their Meeting in Madras on the second day no mention was made of the proprietary planter, but directly the report of the Committee was published this was noticed by the proprietary planters who immediately wrote to the papers saying that the interests of the proprietary planter had not been

looked after in Madras. He did not think that there was anything in the proceedings to show that, but he believed that all the time this had not been lost sight of. Since then it was said that they had altered their point of view, but it was evident that Mr. Ainsworth's point of view had changed also. It was fined down to a considerable extent on Tuesday, and now that he had come out with a more clear and reasonable proposition to put before the Meeting, he (Mr. Barber) would say that they should go further and drop any reference to the Madras Meeting not because they were wrong in any way, but because he thought they ought to go on a totally different tack in approaching the Government. The latter had stated that they would call a Conference as soon as the information they asked for was forthcoming and they further said that they would also call in the bankers. Surely, they could leave the actual details for settlement until the Conference was called. He much regretted that when Mr. Ainsworth had asked for a unanimous vote he was opposing it in this way. But in talking over the matter with Mr. Ainsworth he knew that that gentleman would not feel any resentment when he asked the Meeting before voting to think whether the proposal could not be put in a better form, one more likely to attract the sympathy of the Government.

Mr. MCARTHUR (Central Travancore) said: I propose to move an Amendment to Mr. Ainsworth's Resolution. I am only dealing with the Resolution, as it now stands, and Government's reply to the Resolutions of the U. P. A. S. I. Finance Meeting in Madras. The Resolution now before the Meeting ignores all reference to the detailed information which Government has called for and on which as I understand the position any financial assistance which eventually may be given us by Government is based. Government has already replied to the Madras Resolutions referred to by stating that before taking any steps they require the following information :—

1. The financial requirements of the Planting Communities.

2. How far the Banks are able to meet these requirements.

Seeing therefore that the Madras Resolution No. 3 has already been before Government, has been considered. I do not think that we are entitled to at present bring the matter up, in the manner suggested. It is surely preferable to leave Government and the members of the suggested conference to devise some means of financially assisting us which will meet the requirements of all planters. The Resolution as now put forward is not in accordance with that passed in Madras, although I understand that it is meant to confirm same. The Resolution No. 3 passed at the Madras Finance Meeting reads: "That Government might make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills" but the present Resolution reads: "Should make advances to Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills." In the one a suggestion is made but the other an attempt to dictate to Government is made. Also, a further addition has been made to the original Madras Resolution. This addition is, I consider, one that may be very well left to Government and the suggested Conference to come to an agreement on. As the request for financial assistance from Government has come from the U. P. A. S. I., it is surely only reasonable, that at the very outset, we should comply with Government's request for detailed information of our financial requirements. If we do not do so then I consider that Government would be entitled to accuse us of bad faith. I do not intend to go into the financial or other arguments brought forward by Mr. Ainsworth as I consider that in view of what I have

already said the Resolution is premature for until we have carried out Government's request any such Resolution is on our part unreasonable. I now beg to move the following Amendment :

"That in view of further information which has come to light since the Finance Meeting in May last at Madras, this Meeting do leave the settlement of the finance difficulties of planters to the Government of Madras on the advice of the Conference which the Government of Madras will call as soon as full information regarding planting requirements has been given."

Mr. W. A. LEE (Kanan Devan) said that he was pleased to second Mr. McArthur's Amendment. They found that Government had promised to give them help when they had ascertained the necessary steps to be taken. Surely they could leave it to the Government to decide what means they would take to give this help.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) rose to a point of order. He said the Amendment now proposed was much the same as the next Resolution on the Agenda Paper.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is not a Resolution ; it is an Amendment proposed by Mr. Richardson to another Resolution which will be proposed in this connection.

Mr. MURPHY (Mundakayam) said with reference to the fact that Government had called a Conference meant that Government was going to take their opinion on the matter. Surely they were not going to attend this Conference without some proposals to put before the Government or were they going to stand like a lot of school-boys and ask what was going to be done with them.

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) said that he would support the Amendment because he could not see that any useful purpose would be served by Mr. Ainsworth's resolution. He could not see that it would serve any useful purpose to re-affirm the three Resolutions of the Madras Finance Committee.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT said that he would like to point out that this resolution of Mr. Ainsworth was passed unanimously by the Committee that was called to meet in Madras. It was then submitted to the Council of the U. P. A. S. I. and as far as he knew unanimously passed by them. At least it was evident that it had been passed by the majority of the Council, because it was sent up to Government. Therefore if Mr. McArthur's Amendment was passed now they would be stultifying themselves, because Government would most certainly say that they did not know for two weeks together what their views were. They were not thrusting this proposal down the Government's throat. They were merely fortifying themselves with an opinion of the Meeting as to what ought to be done. He presumed that all the Associations were agreed that this was a good thing to ask for. He did not think, that they should wait to be dictated to. He did not think, as Mr. Murphy had said, that they should go to this Conference without some proposals of their own. If they added Mr Richardson's Amendment as well it would meet all that was required.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER, in speaking to the Amendment said that Mr. Abbott had remarked that they would be stultifying themselves if they accepted the Amendment. He did not think so. It was in view of the further information that had come to light that Mr. McArthur's

Amendment had been brought forward. He would go further and say that if they adhered to a Resolution that had been passed some time ago in spite of increased knowledge they would be laying themselves open to the charge of being narrow-minded.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) said that after what Mr. Barber had said and considering that Government were willing to hold a Conference he thought that any views they had on the subject should be expressed at that Conference and not now.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON (Ex-Chairman) said that he thought, Mr. McArthur had claimed the right to make use of what information they had. He did not think that Mr. McArthur had suggested that they should go back on their previous proposal. In the light of the information they now had they would be right to meet the Government with fresh proposals.

Mr. AINSWORTH said that as he regarded the matter the view put forward in Mr. McArthur's Amendment was to the effect that they should not commit themselves to any expression of policy. He thought that it would be a great mistake for the Meeting to dissolve without putting forward a Resolution of the nature of that which he proposed. Mr. Barber had informed them that there was likely to be a Conference to be held later on to discuss this question. Seeing that that Meeting was to consist of delegates from the planting districts he did not see the object of that Meeting if they could not represent to Government what their views were on the subject. Mr. Barber had made a remark about the second day's Proceedings of the Meeting held in Madras which he did not think was altogether just in so far as he said that it was more or less of a debating society character at which practically nothing was done.

On that point he would read an extract from the *Madras Mail* leader of the 6th June on "Planters and Finance" reviewing the results of that Meeting :—

"At any rate, the planters, assisted by the advice of the bankers and the representatives of Mercantile Firms who were present, were not deterred from tackling the question. Indeed, they were bound to do so, for the only alternative would have been to convert the affair into a Prayer Meeting and return home."

He did not think that the opinion of the *Madras Mail* in a matter like this was to be lightly regarded. He had referred to the further information which the Government required and he had mentioned in his remarks that he hoped that this information would be obtained and sent forward to Government. He did not see any need therefore, to drop the proposal put forward merely because the information had not been supplied as yet. The information was being obtained and he took it that the decision of this Meeting as to the manner in which it would be obtained would be binding on all concerned. In the meantime there was no harm in putting forward the Resolutions.

Mr. J. J. MURPHY said that instead of urging Government to adopt this Resolution he would propose that the Meeting should instruct those deputed to attend this Meeting to put forward the Resolution adopted at this Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Murphy, will you draw up a formal Amendment.

Mr. MURPHY said that the Amendment that he would like to propose was as follows:—"That this Meeting considers that the delegates from the U.P.A.S.I. to the Conference the Hon'ble Mr. Barber has told us is to be called by Government to deal with the question of planting finance should ask there that the Government should make advances to the Exchange Banks for the purpose of purchasing Estate Bills and further requests the Government to provide financial assistance either in the shape of direct loans or loans through the Presidency Bank for those planters who have hitherto financed their Estates other than through the Exchange Banks, or who are unable to deal with the Exchange Banks." He put forward this Amendment, he said, in the interests of peace.

Mr. LAKE (South Mysore) seconded the Amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that Mr. Murphy had just remarked that he had brought up this Amendment in the interests of peace. While Mr. Ainsworth's Resolution attempted to bind Government down to a certain course of action Mr. Murphy's was intended to bind the representatives to the Conference. He was afraid that was equally a mistake. No intelligent man would care to meet the Government and when asked his views repeat the Amendment.

Mr. MURPHY.—The amendment is not binding our representatives in any way. It would be open to the delegates to treat their proposals or they would be at liberty to accept those of the Government. His opinion was that they should go to the Conference with certain views to put forward.

The Chairman put Mr. Murphy's Amendment to the vote when it was lost.

Mr. McARTHUR'S Amendment was carried by a substantial majority.

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad) said that his Resolution had to do with the method in which the information asked for by Government was to be supplied. It ran as follows: "That in order to supply the information required by Government, Estates do send in the statements of their weekly requirements, which statements must be approved and passed by the Bankers or Financing Agents through which the Estates have hitherto drawn their funds." It appears, he said, if the information is supplied in the way I mention it would save very much valuable time and a great deal of trouble. The reasons for this seem obvious. The getting in of the information in detailed form is certain to take some time and appears necessary. For Government to deal efficiently with such information machinery for dealing with it must be arranged for; and seeing that both Bankers and Agents have the necessary machinery already in working order and that one or other of them is already in close touch with probably every Estate, all that is necessary is that the Bankers and Agents should be placed in a position to provide the necessary funds or such proportion of them as the Government is able to provide.

The Amendment was duly seconded.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore).—I propose to move an Amendment to Mr. Malcolm's Resolution. In view of the discussion we had in Committee and the ground already covered by Mr. McArthur in his remarks, it must be perfectly clear to everyone that we must meet Government's requests in reply to our Resolutions passed at our Madras Meeting. The form as it now stands

has already been issued and a good many have been sent in. I believe it was shown to the Revenue Secretary who expressed the opinion that he thought it would meet with Government's requirements. I think therefore it would be a great pity to cause a further delay by issuing an amended form which will take the best part of a month when we can get all the required information on the present form within a week or ten days. Time is of still more value now in view of the Conference with the Planters Government propose calling at an early date. The only objection to the present form seems to be the last question asking for particulars of any encumbrance on the Estate or crop. This is a point on which we are all aware Superintendents may not be in a position to answer and all that need be said is that this information will have to be obtained from Agents or Proprietors at Home. It must also be thoroughly understood that Government's request for expenditure figures, etc., are only tentative as a basis for discussion at the proposed Conference as also the suggestion thrown out in Sir Bernard Hunter's letter to Government of a Co-operative Scheme. In this connection I may mention I have just received a cable from London to the effect that some Companies at least would be prepared to consider a Co-operative Scheme to meet the Banks' wishes. I merely mention this to show that people at Home quite realise the urgency of our case and to delay matters at this stage over such a trivial point as I have just mentioned will make us look very foolish. I hope therefore my Amendment will receive support so that we can supply the Government of Madras with the information they require with the least possible delay which will enable the Conference to be called at an early date to formulate some workable scheme. My Resolution is as follows:—"That this Association do adopt and accept the finance requirement form already sent out and do endeavour to meet as fully as possible the wishes of the Government of Madras in this matter, further that this Association shall consider anyone who does not send in this form before the 28th September as not requiring financial assistance through the help of Government."

Mr. FRASER (Anamalais).—I have great pleasure in seconding the Amendment before the Meeting. Mr. Richardson has put the position very clearly before you and there is practically nothing for me to add. We may not all require financial assistance but it is up to the strong to help the weak in these dark days and this they can do most effectively by accepting the form as it now stands and by giving the information asked for. I would ask you therefore Gentlemen, to strongly support Mr. Richardson's Amendment as by doing so you will be helping and not hindering any scheme that Government may approve of for giving financial assistance to the Planting Industries of Southern India.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) said that he would like to fix the date for the return of these forms on the 10th September.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg).—Quite so, if there is no date fixed, when is the Committee to consider the matter?

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais).—In the case of the Tea Allotments Committee it was necessary to fix a date. It is just as necessary now in this case.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.—It seems that a good many of these forms, are already in the hands of the Secretaries. I think if a date was given it would hurry up the remainder.



The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that it had been mentioned that most members were not informed that this information was required by Government. That was not quite correct. When he said the first attempt to obtain this information was an absolute failure, he had the question of the tea allotments in view. It was therefore thought advisable to put the following remark on the forms: "Please give estimate of expenditure, the information is required by Government before any financial assistance can be considered." This part of the form was not filled in some cases, it was torn out in other cases and in others the men had written across the form: "This information is not to be given." He thought that it was impossible to collect information of this sort in an adequate way unless it was done on some form such as that prescribed.

Mr. MALCOLM (Wynaad) said that in respect to what Mr. Richardson had said he did not propose that the information should be sent in on any particular form. His suggestion was that the information should be supplied as to weekly requirements. It seemed to him that his proposal was a very simple one and had the approval of his colleagues. If it was carried through it would take no time whatever. In regard to Mr. Richardson's Amendment two or three suggestions had been made as to the time that would be lost if the forms were not hurried up. This all pointed to a possible delay occurring. The method he suggested would not cause any delay at all, because this information was such that everyone supplied his Agents in the ordinary course of his business. However he did not want to rouse opposition but to get through the business. He merely wished to record his protest, and if this Meeting approved Mr Richardson's Amendment he would withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. RICHARDSON'S Amendment was then put and carried.

### **Labour Department.**

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) said: I was asked to bring up the matter of the Director's Report and Accounts. My Association feels that a copy of these should be sent to a chosen subscriber in each district, before the Annual General Meeting of this Association. At present the ordinary subscriber has no chance to criticise anything. The report and accounts are brought up at the Annual Meeting, Delegates have no instructions from their Associations, and in any case would have little chance of saying much, unless gifted with the debating qualities of Mr. Balfour. On the contrary if the report and detailed accounts are sent out beforehand every subscriber would have a chance to see them and if necessary instruct their Delegates and this would, I feel sure, stop a considerable amount of dissatisfaction, which at present exists. With reference to the accounts, we should like to know how much is spent on each division, and the acreage dealt with by each. I understand that the Director maintains this last is impossible, as the same estate may use 3 or 4 divisions. To a certain extent this must, of course, be true, but the chief business, of any one district, is, I conclude, done by one Agency—certainly this is so with the Anamalais—the bulk of whose labour comes from Coimbatore, Salem and Malabar District and I should imagine that the Shevaroy's, the Nelliampathies, Nilgiris, and to a limited degree Wynaad come under the same division, and that the little outside business, done by these districts, would be counterbalanced by the outside business of other districts, done through the Coimbatore Division. If this is so, it appears to me, there should be little difficulty in

supplying the information asked for. I therefore move the following Resolution :—

“ That the Labour Director's Annual Report and detailed copy of Accounts, showing the amount spent by each division and the area served by each, be sent to one subscriber, selected by the Planters' Association of his district, and that a copy of the yearly estimate be also sent when available.”

Mr .A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. MARTIN, Director, Labour Department, said that on a previous occasion he had pleasure in welcoming a Resolution of the Anamalai Association that all Office work in various offices should be reduced. This Resolution would, of course, add to office work. Nevertheless as it was the wish of the subscribers he would get the consent of the Control Committee and would as soon as possible comply with the request.

The Resolution was then adopted.

Mr. C. LAKE (South Mysore) said : Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,— In the ordinary course of events there will be only one more Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. before the term of guaranteed subscription to the Labour Department comes to an end and I think it is now desirable to place before those in control of it for their consideration any suggestions and improvements which may seem necessary if the Department is going to be carried on after the expiry of the present term of five years. Before I proceed further I would like to emphasise that what I have to say on this subject is not intended in any way as a carping criticism on the way the Department is being run, as I very fully appreciate the tremendous amount of work and trouble, the organising and carrying on of it, has given to Mr. Martin and to those assisting him. My suggestions are an attempt to keep the ship of the Department from drifting on to the rocks, which I fear will be the case if present conditions are not altered, and to justify its continuance on more efficient and economical lines. I cannot of course speak for other districts, but as far as South Mysore is concerned the opinion is very generally held that the present subscription of Rs. 2 per acre is too heavy a burden and it seems likely that there will not be found many agreeable to continue the present subscription after the fifth year. If the Labour Department is to continue, therefore, the main point to be considered is a reduction of the subscription which must be brought about either by getting in a larger acreage or by asking the assistance of Government or by some other means. It seem to me that the line on which the Department is now being run is altogether too cumbersome and top-heavy and that much greater efficiency in the work done by it could be obtained if more money was spent in the recruiting areas and less at the headquarters than is the case at present. During the past year although a sum of Rs. 2,10,121 was spent which is some Rs. 6,000 in excess of the revenue for the year and Mr. Martin has told us that owing to the War, financial conditions made it necessary to abandon any expansion in the establishment of Indian Agencies. If this has been found necessary with an expenditure in excess of the revenue it is difficult to see how any improvement can be expected in the future on the present lines of working. It is, at any rate, very much to be deplored as it is in this direction that the Department should be

of greatest use to us. The method which suggests itself to me by which the subscription could be reduced and better value for it obtained by the subscribers is that the Head Office as now constituted in Bangalore be done away with and that each circle or recruiting centre be made self-containing and fully responsible for all the work done within its area and rendering its accounts direct to the U. P. A. S. I. Further, that after allowing say 15 per cent. for increase of expenditure at the U. P. A. S. I. office, the entire balance of the subscription of each planting district be used in developing the Department in the area from which it recruits its labour. So far as Coorg and Mysore are concerned this would I think enable the subscription to be reduced to Re. 1 or even less per acre and it will probably be found that the same is the case with other districts. Whether something on these lines could be effected without loss of the friendly co-operation which now exists throughout the Department I cannot say but although the interests of several districts may be found to overlap a little I do not think this difficulty will be found too insurmountable if left in the able hands of our Director. The most important thing is to bring into existence some method of carrying on the Department on cheaper and more efficient lines than is the case at present and if this is not done the whole thing seems likely to fizzle out for want of further support. To my mind, gentlemen, it is unthinkable that we should ever again allow things to revert to the chaotic state of affairs which existed before it was started. I beg therefore to propose the following Resolution:—

“That the Director, Deputy Director and Control Committee with power to add to their number, be asked to prepare a scheme for re-organization of the Labour Department on a basis of subscription of approximately Re. 1 per acre.”

Mr. C. FRASER (Anamalais) in seconding the Resolution said: Having in common with all subscribers the well-being and prosperity of the Labour Department at heart I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Lake's Resolution. Mr. Lake has sounded a note of alarm, a note that I fear is only too well-founded. . . . . To be forewarned however is to be forearmed and the longer the Control Committee have got to put their house in order the better will it be able to meet the situation when the crisis comes. The question of re-organization on cheaper lines can safely be left in the hands of the Control Committee but there is one absolute fact they have to face the fact that unless they can reduce subscription a large number of Estates at present subscribing will withdraw their support and the U. P. A. S. I. will find itself without a Labour Department. Re-organization on cheaper lines, after five years of office will be of such vital importance to the very existence of the Department that I would ask you one and all to-day to give your support to Mr. Lake's Resolution.

Mr. MARTIN said that constructive criticism was very rare especially with regard to the Labour Department. He therefore thanked Mr. Lake kindly for the suggestions he had made and the efforts he had made to assist in arriving at some way in which the re-organization of the Labour Department could be effected. There would be a Meeting of the Control Committee and Mr. Waddington and himself the next day and he thought that he could promise that they would all do their best in this matter.

The Resolution was carried.

### **Cinchona Extensions.**

The CHAIRMAN put the following Resolution:—"That this Association do express its appreciation of the action of His Excellency Lord Pentland in inviting the planters to confer with Government on the question of Cinchona plantation extensions and trusts that the Conference will meet with good results."

The Resolution was carried.

### **Indian Defence Force Act.**

Mr. H. L. PINCHES (Kanan Devan): Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, —I have the pleasure to propose the following Resolution:

"That Government and the Military authorities be asked to confer with the Planters' Association of South India regarding the application of the Indian Defence Force Act to planting districts firstly, with a view to ensuring that the assistance obtained from the planting community is as efficient as possible from a Military point of view and secondly, to put a stop to the unnecessary hardships and expenses at present caused to planters and also the unnecessary disorganization of planting business."

I should like to say at once that I am proposing this Resolution with no idea of attempting to hamper Government in their effort to obtain the men they require for military service or to evade the obligations that I consider at the present moment everyone of us individually and every business in India is under to help the Empire to the very utmost of our power. The fact must not be lost sight of, however, that a large number of Estate Managers and Assistants have already left their Estates to fight for their country, and certainly in many cases if many more men are taken, the Estates will have to shut down. I do not mean to say that planting districts cannot give more men and at the same time carry on the Estates, but I do mean to say that unless extreme care is taken in the selection of men, a large proportion of the Capital invested in South Indian Tea, Coffee and Rubber Estates will be lost, and it seems to me the most practical way to avoid such a catastrophe overtaking the planting industry is for a Conference to be held between the Government, the Military Authorities, and the planters represented by the U. P. A. S. I., to decide which men can best be spared, and how the remainder can receive the military training it is considered necessary to give them whilst causing as little disorganization of the industry as possible. I have no hesitation in saying that up to now since the Act was brought into force the planters, at all events in outlying districts, have received the minimum of practical training with the maximum of interference with Estate work. Men in my district, the High Range, still ride anything up to 42 miles there and back to put in a few hours drill and that given by an amateur soldier (though I hasten to add a most efficient one) our Sergeant-Instructor having been withdrawn from the district. Many of us travelled long distance to Exemption Tribunals only to be referred to Selection Committees and so on. If it were necessary to give up all this time we should not complain, but what we object to is that it is not necessary as the same or better results from the military point of view could be obtained with far less interference with Estate works if those responsible for the application of the Act understood the conditions in planting districts, and consulted the

planters. In North India a similar Conference to the one I propose was held at Shillong, and from the Proceedings of that Meeting published in the Indian Tea Association's Circular No. 41, it would appear that a complete agreement was arrived at both as to the best means of training and calling out of men, and it is interesting to note from those Proceedings that the General Officer Commanding the Presidency Brigade, Brigadier-General Strange, agreed to give an undertaking on behalf of the Military Authorities that *one* European will be left on every garden, and that no men will be transferred for service outside the Province, subject to the proviso that in case of necessity a maximum of 64 men from Assam and about 32 from the Surma Valley could be furnished for outside service. Planters in South India would welcome a similar definite assurance that their interests will be safeguarded. One European to each Estate, unless the Estates are very small is, I think, a minimum with which the Estates can be carried on. Another matter we should try to come to some arrangement about is in regard to Planters applying for and receiving Commissions in the India Army Reserve of Officers now that the Indian Defence Force Act is in force. Just now all the men liable for general service belonging to the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles are being grouped for three months' training. If, meanwhile, Commissions are going to be given to any men who apply for them without any reference to their employers, the arrangements we make for carrying on the estates during the absence of the Managers or Assistants in training will be entirely upset. It will also be impossible to reduce the European staff of Estates to the lowest possible number if there is any avoidable uncertainty regarding the continuity of the services of those that remain. It seems to me that, if Government take the power to call men out from Estates they should have and use the power to compel others to stay on them or at all events consult their employers before accepting their services. This grouping for training of men belonging to the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles to which I have just referred is a case in point where co-operation with the planting districts would have avoided needless trouble. The grouping as published in the Regimental Order of the 24th July is quite unpracticable so far as planting districts are concerned and will have to be completely revised before it can be brought into action. When mentioning the Regimental Order I should like to refer to the publication of a list of our dependants who are stated in full detail in this document. It is difficult to see what military advantage is to be gained by publishing information of a confidential nature such as this whilst that it is strongly resented in many quarters I know. At all events we can at least ask that if this information must be published that care is taken to see that it is accurate and thus avoid any risk of upsetting the domestic felicity of any of the married members of the corps. There are many other matters in connection with the application of the Act to planting districts that badly require putting on a business footing such as for instance what is to become of the wife and family of the married planter called out for three months' training or for general service. They cannot stop on the Estates often miles from their nearest neighbour firstly, because they cannot receive the necessary protection there, and secondly, because the bungalow will often be required for a *locum tenens* carrying on the Estate work during the Manager's absence. To send his wife and family to Madras or a Hill Station would seem the only alternative, and this would be a considerable expense that, even if he were able to afford it would be quite inequitable to expect him to bear considering the

necessity has arisen through his performing service for the State. There are other points I could mention, but I think I have said enough to show that a Conference such as I propose between the Government, Military Authorities, and the planters is urgently required. Such a Conference will, I am confident, not only enable Government to get full advantage of the further help from a military point of view the planting community of South India can give but will also ensure that that assistance is got without disorganising our industry more than is absolutely necessary.

Mr. CONGREVE (Anamalais) in seconding the Resolution said: I fully agree with all that Mr. Pinches has said. At present the position is chaotic and it appears to me the only way in which full use of the great possibilities of the planting community for the purpose of national defence can be turned to the best advantage is by holding a conference between the military authorities and the planters Representatives as proposed by Mr. Pinches.

The Resolution was carried.

### **Election of Office-bearers.**

The Meeting at this stage proceeded to elect office-bearers for the ensuing year, with the following result:—

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS was re-elected Chairman.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Senior Vice Chairman.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING, Second Vice-Chairman.

Messrs. ABBOTT and TIPPING briefly acknowledged their appreciation of the honour done them in re-electing them office-bearers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the present Auditors be re-appointed. The Resolution was carried.

### **Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.**

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he had been asked to address the Meeting once more and had much pleasure in acceding to the request. He knew that he would carry the whole Meeting with him when proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for the work that he had done for the community during the year and for the work that he had done during the Meeting. (Cheers). Every year the work of the Chairman had been getting more onerous and last year had been a particularly anxious one. Mr. Nicolls had had an excellent colleague in the Hon'ble Mr. Barber. He knew what a great assistance Mr. Barber could be to the Chairman and if it would be in order he would like to couple Mr. Barber's name with that of Mr. Nicolls in this vote of thanks (Cheers). If there had been a little feeling of disappointment, it was not at the work—either its quality or its quantity—that had been done. But at the want of results which was not the fault of either of those gentlemen. If there had been any expression of disappointment especially in the corner of the room which he and his colleagues occupied, it must be put down to their nationality and particularly to the fact that the Wynaad was always supposed to be obstructive (laughter). None of them there has failed to appreciate the great amount of work both in quality and quantity, that had been

done. He (Mr. Abbott) had been Chairman and knew what it was like. He knew what a lot has been done. They had come to bad times indeed; they had come to a time of the fiercest fighting in this terrible War and he sometimes felt that it was really indecent to bring forward some grievances. He would however, like to make it clear with regard to some of the matters that had come up at this Meeting that planters were in a curious position. They could not adapt their factories to other work in the absence of their own business. Planting had to go on and they had to do their best to keep it going under difficult conditions. Most of their best men had gone to take part in the fighting and every day others were going. His own colleague Mr. Ainsworth had interrupted his preparations to join the Army to come to this Meeting (Cheers). They had not, as he had already pointed out been able to agree with all that had been proposed in that corner; but he was sure that all would agree with what Mr. Ainsworth was now proposing to do; some would feel that they would like to be going with him on his next journey and all would wish him a safe and speedy return and hope that he would be able to attend this Meeting next year.

MR. ABBOTT AND GENTLEMEN,—I am more than thankful to you for the way you have received Mr. Abbott's speech and for re-electing me your Chairman. Mr. Abbott has spoken in glowing terms of the work done during the year. To me it has been a work of love. Mr. Barber has made me responsible for returning thanks for him also. I have known Mr. Barber since the old days in Ceylon when he came out to learn planting on an adjoining Estate to that on which I was on. I am conscious that I have not always been able to see eye to eye with Mr. Barber, but I am also aware that Mr. Barber has often been able to persuade me to see things in a different light; and, so often helped me to come to a right conclusion in my work during the year. From Mr. Abbott, too, I have received much useful help, and advice, and how useful that advice was, can be gauged by the position of prominence that Mr. Abbott occupies in the planting community. I very much appreciate the intention of the Meeting in electing the same Vice-Chairmen, who have so efficiently assisted me during the past year. Gentlemen, this Meeting is now coming to its end. Regrets at what one has said, and the lost opportunities of saying what one might now wish to have said, will avail you nothing. The former will remain for ever in that dreadful Book of Proceedings, one day perhaps to be slung at your head or at that of the constituency you have represented at this Meeting. I feel I am on my own now and can speak more freely than I could when I nervously took my seat before you at the commencement of this Conference. I have gained confidence and with it strength empowering me to say what I think. A point I wish to impress on you firmly is to remember "the dignity of the U.P.A.S.I. and the weight that important body carries"; it should be sufficient to stop any rash or not fully considered Resolution being put forward even in Committee. You can never by persistency make wrong right. Try to increase the interest taken now in the United Planters' Association by affiliated Associations. We are not all of one mind here to-day. I do not believe in "Ideals" and there are Idealists amongst us here. Gentlemen, I am not an "Idealist" but a supporter of the other party. One thing that has impressed me at this Meeting is "our coming talent." It is not for me to mention names, but I congratulate the U. P. A. S. I. in having amongst its members so many clear headed and able speakers. My days are nearer and

nearer getting to the time when I shall have to be content with "the old man's Chair." I have always done my best in your interests and when that time comes, and come it must, I shall rest content knowing that the "Industries" on which my whole life will have been spent are guarded over by more capable men than myself. I thank you one and all for the support and courtesy shown to me during this Meeting and through a most anxious year. Ladies, I have never been present at a Meeting of this Association, when a vote of thanks has been passed to you for your attendance as guests. If it has not been done before, I am glad that I am the first Chairman to propose one. We all fully recognise what a grand part you are taking in this dreadful War. We cannot do without you here. I could not and never have been able to—Ladies, my thanks are due to you for your presence at this Meeting and I assure you that the knowledge that you were sitting behind me when I made my opening address, gave me the confidence I needed.

I can but hope that when my successor in the Chair opens the 1919 Conference, it will be his privilege to congratulate the Empire and our Allies, that not only has this dreadful War ended, but the terms of peace have been finally settled. I feel that we should congratulate that great Republic at its decision to share the burden of those who are fighting for humanity.

I would like to emphasise the good opinion Mr. Abbott expressed about Mr. Ainsworth. I have to congratulate him on the way he dealt with his subject. I also wish him the best of luck on joining the Army (Cheers). We will watch his career with the greatest interest and I feel certain he will do as well in his new profession as he has done in the one he now leaves.

I feel certain that in proposing that a hearty vote of thanks shall be forwarded to the British Empire Producers' Organization coupled with the names of Sir John Rees and Mr. Mockett for the unceasing energy they have given in your behalf in representing to the Home Government the serious position the Coffee Industry will be placed in if prohibition of Import into the United Kingdom is insisted upon—I have the unanimous support of all present.

We are again indebted to Mr. McRae for an interesting lecture on abnormal leaf-fall in rubber—and to him is due a sincere vote of thanks from all Rubber Planters for the interest he has taken in the disease and the suggestions he has made for combating it.

The Meeting then terminated.

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**ACCOUNTS, 1916-1917.**

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**THE UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA (INCORPORATED).**  
**Revenue and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th June, 1917.**

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
To Secretary's Salary .....	8,800 0 0	By Subscription, U.P.A.S.I. for 1916-17 ..	19,135 0 8
" Office Salary .....	2,579 12 0	" Contribution from the Government ..	1,000 0 0
" Rent .....	1,800 0 0	" <i>Planters' Chronicle</i> .....	801 2 5
" Postages .....	374 4 2	" Books of Proceedings .....	324 5 0
" Lighting and Water .....	85 0 0	" Ex-Chairmen's Subscription .....	60 0 0
" Office Charges and Pettyes .....	103 3 3	" Interest (including Interest accrued due) ..	855 7 7
" Stationery .....	444 9 6	" Contribution from the Labour Department ..	2,385 0 0
" Printing Charges .....	75 0 0	" Contribution from the Rubber Growers' Association ..	840 0 0
" Telegrams .....	256 14 0	" Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department ..	1,540 0 0
.. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts—	12,318 10 11		
" Contingencies .....	75 9 3		
" Contribution to Government of Madras .....	4,036 0 0		
" Laboratory Unkeep .....	717 8 9		
" Analytical Branch of Scientific Department ..	1,320 0 0		
" Laboratory Lighting .....	50 3 5		
" Library .....	33 11 6		
" Periodicals .....	192 5 10		
.. Annual Meeting .....	719 3 6		
" Committee Meetings .....	1,506 0 9		
.. Manurial Experiments .....	509 8 0		
" Expenses in connection with Experimental Plot .....	25 0 0		
.. Library .....	...		
" Coffee Import Prohibition .....	...		
" Subscription to London Chamber of Commerce .....	360 10 0		
" Books of Proceedings .....	155 0 0		
" Audit for .....	435 3 0		
" Expenses for <i>Chronicle</i> Cover .....	280 0 0		
" Fire Insurance Premium .....	100 0 0		
" Depreciation .....	17 7 0		
" Balance being net revenue transferred to Balance Sheet .....	248 1 2		
.. Total Rs. ....	3,856 14 7	Total Rs. ....	28,940 15 8

Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1917.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		PROPERTY AND ASSETS.	
CAPITAL	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
(1) <i>General Capital Account</i> — Balance as per last Balance Sheet, dated 30th June, 1916. Add Amounts at credit of the following Funds as at 30th June, 1916, transferred— Kali Syndicate Manurial Experimental Fund. 2,490-13-5 Experimental Plot Fund ... 85-10-0	20,794 1 3	...	1,598 9 10 142 14 0 1,741 7 10 318 0 5 1,423 7 5
Add Excess of Revenue for the year as per Revenue and Expenditure Account...	2,576 7 5	...	999 0 0 189 12 11 809 3 1
	3,856 14 7	...	2,232 10 5
(2) <i>Funds of the Association</i> — 1. Scientific Assistant (My-sore) Fund as per separate statement ... 2. Laboratory Fund as per separate statement ...	996 1 9 8 8 5	...	1,596 0 0 4,855 8 0 26,637 9 0 33,089 1 0 159 0 0 32,930 1 0 40,335 3 9 73,265 4 9
(3) <i>Capital of the Labour Department</i> —as per contra Capital with the Labour Department as per separate statement ...	73,265 4 9 28,646 7 10	...	28,646 7 10 1,01,911 12 7 1,129 6 3

OTHER FUNDS.		INTEREST ACCRUED DUE ON FIXED DEPOSIT RECEIPTS ... AS PER INVESTMENTS OF FUNDS ...		510 10 4
South India Planters' Benevolent Fund as per separate statement and invested as per contra ...	18,326 11 9	...	...	...
South India Planters' War Fund as per separate statement and as per contra ...	63,736 11 9	...	...	...
LIABILITIES.		...	...	...
For Expenses—	...	...	...	...
Audit Fee	750 0 0	...	...	...
Secretary (on account of R.G.A.)	300 0 0	...	...	...
Secretary—Balance Share of Profits <i>Planters' Chronicle</i>	138 8 8	...	...	...
Mr. Frattini—Balance of salary, etc.	94 8 0	...	...	...
Chairman's Expenses	165 12 6	...	...	...
Travelling Expenses—	...	...	...	...
Mr. Browne	100 0 0	...	...	...
Mr. Anstead's Publications	30 0 0	...	...	...
For Subscription from Shevaroy Planters' Association paid in advance	400 0 0	...	...	...
Total Rs....	...	...	...	...
SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND—		...	...	...
Rs. 18,500 3 1/10 Government Paper at 66	...	...	...	...
Fixed Deposit	...	...	...	...
Receipt, Bank of Madras	...	...	...	...
Cash with Bank of Madras (No. 2 Account)	...	...	...	...
Interest accrued due to 30th June, 1917	...	...	...	...
SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND—	...	...	...	...
Cash with Bank of Madras (No. 4 Account)	...	...	...	...
Cash with Secretary in London	...	...	...	...
Loans Granted	...	...	...	...
CASH AND OTHER BALANCES—	...	...	...	...
Cash in hand	...	...	...	...
Cash on Fixed Deposit, Bank of Madras	...	...	...	...
Cash with Bank of Madras (No 1 Account)	...	...	...	...
Total Rs....	...	...	...	...

FLETCHER NORTON. *Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.*

**C. E. ABBOTT, Vice-Chairman.**

We have to report that we have examined the Balance Sheet of the United Planters' Association of Southern India. (Incorporated) as at 30th June, 1917, and as above set forth and that we have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and that in our opinion such Balance Sheet exhibits a true and correct view of the state of the Association's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown in the books of the Association and that it is drawn up in conformity with the law.

MADRAS, 28th July, 1917.

**FRASER & ROSS,**  
*Chartered Accountants.*

*Auditors.*

**LABOUR DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT.**  
**Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.**

PAYMENTS.				RECEIPTS.			
<i>Expenses—</i>	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.	Subscription 1916-17	RS.	A. P.
Bank Charges ...	57	2 5			Subscription 1917-18	...	2,03,942 14 0
Payment to the Director of the Labour Department ...	2,20,500	0 0			Interest	...	159 0 0
Legal Expenses	200	0 0				...	963 3 2
			2,20,757	2 5			2,05,065 1 2
Subscription written off ...	210	0 0			Balance as at 30th June, 1916...	...	90,749 6 0
Excess payments of previous years refunded this year ...	1,582	0 0					
Balance as per Balance Sheet.	...		1,792	0 0			
			73,265	4 9			
			2,95,814	7 2			
Total Rs. ...	...		2,95,814	7 2	Total Rs. ...	...	2,95,814 7 2

**SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT (MYSORE) FUND ACCOUNT.**  
**Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.**

PAYMENTS.				RECEIPTS.			
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A. P.
Mr. Frattini's Salary	...	4,025	0 0		Subscriptions from—		
" Frattini's Allowance	...	230	0 0		South Mysore Planters' Association...	975	0 0
" Frattini's Peon	...	92	0 0		Bababudin Planters' Association	900	0 0
" Frattini's Laboratory Expenses	...	94	8 0		North Mysore Planter's Association	1,500	0 0
" Frattini's Travelling Expenses	...	310	0 0		tion	...	
" Frattini's Postage Bill	...	31	5 0		Council of Mysore Planters' Association	458	7 0
Printing Charges for publishing Mr. Frattini's Bulletin	...	77	13 0		Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1916, as per last Account	2,143	4 9
Rent on Oorsey Bungalow	...	120	0 0				
Balance as per Balance Sheet	...	...	4,980	10 0			
			996	1 9			
Total Rs. ...	...		5,976	11 9	Total Rs. ...	5,976	11 9

**MYSORE SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT'S LABORATORY FUND.**  
**Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.**

PAYMENTS.		RECEIPTS.	
RS.	A. P.	Balance as at 30th June, 1916, as per last Account	RS. A. P.
Messrs. J. B. Forster & Co.'s Bill for Chromate of Lead supplied to the Scientific Assistant for Mysore	10 0 0	...	18 8 5
Balance as per Balance Sheet	8 8 5	...	
Total Rs. ...	18 8 5	Total Rs. ...	18 8 5

**SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND ACCOUNT.**  
**Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.**

PAYMENTS.		RECEIPTS	
RS.	A. P.	Subscriptions received	RS. A. P.
<i>Assistance granted —</i>		Interest accrued and received.	1,955 0 0
Imray Fund	300 0 0	Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1916	829 10 4
Mr. Claridge	535 9 0		
Mr. Morrison	200 0 0		
<i>Expenses —</i>			
Bank Charges and Petties	53 8 0		
Printing	20 0 0		
Depreciation written off Government paper to bring value to 66	...		
Balance as per Balance Sheet	...		
Total Rs. ...	...	Total Rs. ...	...
			21,655 12 9

RS. A. P.  
 2,784 10 4  
 18,871 2 5



## OVERSEAS AIRCRAFT FUND.

## Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.

	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Remittance to the Overseas Aircraft Fund,				Subscriptions collected	...	...	...
London ...	...	...	...	Interest received	...	...	...
				Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1916	...	...	...
Total Rs. ...	50	7	7				
	50	7	7	Total Rs. ...	50	7	7

## SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND ACCOUNT.

## Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1917.

PAYMENTS.				RECEIPTS.			
	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
<i>Expenses—</i>							
Bank Charges ...	10	12	5	Subscriptions collected	...	19,383	14 3
Printing Charges	35	2	0	Interest received...	...	2,075	13 1
<i>Balance as per Balance Sheet as under—</i>				Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1916	...	21,459	11 4
Bank of Madras (No. 4 Account) With Secretary and Treasurer in London. ...	51,509	7	9		...	42,322	14 10
Loans Granted ...	10,812	4	0				
	1,415	0	0				
	63,736	11	9				
Total Rs. ...	...			Total Rs. ...	...	63,782	10 2



# **BALANCE SHEET OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE U. P. A. S. I.**

**as at 30th June, 1917.**

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES			PROPERTY AND ASSETS.		
CAPITAL.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
With the Director of the Labour Department ...	...	28,646 7 10	Furniture at Head Office and Agencies ...	6,816 0 6	
Security Deposit ...	300 0 0		Less Depreciation written off ...	1,932 3 5	
Sundry Estates for advances received ...	12,616 9 9			...	4,883 13 1
Salaries, etc., due and unpaid ...	5,098 6 2	18,014 15 11	STOCK OF ADVERTISING GOODS		2,000 0 0
			BOOK DEBTS,		
			Due by Sundries considered good ...	18,509 5 7	
			Due for advances made on account of Sundry Estates ...	4,251 5 7	
			CASH AND OTHER BALANCES.		22,760 11 2
			Cash with Bankers on current account ...	12,937 8 6	
			Cash on hand at Head Office and Agencies ...	4,079 7 0	
				...	17,016 15 6
Total Rs. ...	...	48,661 7 9	Total Rs. ...	...	46,661 7 9

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## **APPENDIX.**

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## APPENDIX.

### RULES OF THE U. P. A. S. I. (Incorporated).

*(As revised at the Annual General Meeting, 1915).*

- I. (a) That voting be by the elected delegates of each District Association.
- (b) That every District Association be assessed at the rate of 2 annas per acre on the area under cultivation represented by Members of the Association. That a vote shall be given for every Rs. 10 subscribed.
- (c) That each District Association declare at the Annual Meeting of this Association the area on which the assessment is to be calculated for the ensuing year.
- II. That the Annual General Meeting shall be held at Bangalore during the month of July or August in each year.
  - (1) That at least three subsidiary Sectional Meetings at convenient centres be held in addition each year to deal mainly with coffee, tea and rubber, respectively.
  - (2) That these Sectional Meetings devote special attention to the purely agricultural aspect of the planting industries by means of lectures, exhibitions and discussions.
  - (3) That all Resolutions passed at these Sectional Meetings shall be forwarded to the U. P. A. S. I. to be re-considered at the Annual Meeting of that body and that such Resolutions shall not become in any way binding upon the U. P. A. S. I. unless re-affirmed at an Annual Meeting.
  - (4) That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be hereby empowered and instructed to approach the Honorary Secretaries of the District Planters' Associations with a view to making the necessary arrangements for holding such Sectional Meetings during the ensuing year, and in future years; that he shall attend all such Meetings, if possible; and that a travelling allowance be granted him for this purpose, of a double first-class railway fare and Rs. 5 halting allowance.
- III. That a quorum of four members shall suffice for the transaction of business by the Council.
- IV. That the expenses of the delegates to any Meeting of the Council convened under Article 24 be defrayed by the Association.
- V. That in all Meetings and in the conduct of business by the Council the system of voting be on the subscription basis of one vote for every Rs. 10 subscribed and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Planting Member and ex-Chairman of the previous year shall have one vote.

That the Scientific Officer shall be permitted to move Resolutions at Meetings, but shall have no vote.

VI. That the Council shall have power to appoint the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and Secretary, should any of the offices become vacant during their term of office.

That should a vacancy occur in either of the appointments of Vice-Chairman during any financial year at any time greater than one month from the expiry thereof, the Council shall elect one of their number to fill such vacancy.

VII. That ex-Chairmen, ex-Vice-Chairmen and ex-Planting Members of Council may be allowed to attend Meetings to propose Resolutions or Amendments, and to vote, having one vote each and do in that case pay an annual subscription of Rs. 15; and that while in India they be entitled also to receive the circulars of the Association upon intimating their wish to the Secretary.

That delegates of the previous year be admitted in like manner for one year only.

VIII. All questions in which the Association is interested shall be determined at the Annual Meeting, and after such Meeting the general business of the Association shall be conducted, *ad interim* by the Chairman, Council and Secretary and their actions shall be submitted for confirmation at the next Annual Meeting.

IX. Proxies sent to the Secretary one fortnight before an Ordinary General Meeting shall be accepted, and Proxies sent to the Secretary one week before the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be accepted. In both cases they shall be properly stamped and shall state clearly the purpose for which they are given. (*Vide* Form of Proxy given below).

X. Any Member having an original proposition to propose shall give notice to the Secretary in time to allow him to give 30 days' notice before the assembling of any Meeting and no subject shall be discussed without such notice, except with the unanimous consent of the Meeting.

XI. (1) That the Finance Committee consist of not more than five members, namely, the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Planting Member and the Chairman or the Vice Chairman, of the previous year. That the Secretary be the Secretary to the Finance Committee.

(2) That it is understood that the Finance Committee has direct executive control in all matters concerning finance or connected therewith.

#### FORM OF PROXY.

The Proxy authorises.....to vote for me at the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. to be held on.....and any adjournment thereof on the Resolution relating to.....and on any Amendment that may arise therefrom.

**Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Pusa)**  
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